Alisa of the Silver Hair

ch.1 (of 2)

by Shinji Wada

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THIS IS FROM ALL FOUR OF US.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ALISA!
TEE HEE. I CAN JUST SEE YOU CLUTCHING IT IN YOUR SLEEP, SWEETIE.
AWW! A STUFFED ANIMAL.
Beniko Shigaraki
THAT'S RIGHT, ALL OF OUR FATHERS WORK AT YOUR DAD'S COMPANY, DON'T THEY, ALISA?
Masako Kawasaki
WE POOLED OUR MONEY TO BUY IT.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT? WE'RE ALL IN THE SAME CLASS AT SCHOOL, RIGHT?
Keiko Aoki
MY FATHER SAID TO SAY HI TO THE BOSS FOR HIM.
Mio Kyouzaki

EEK!
NOW, COME IN HERE. I'VE GOT SOMETHING GOOD.
THAT'S RIGHT. THAT STUFF DOESN'T MATTER.
?
THANK YOU, ALISA. I'LL TREASURE IT.
EEE YEE! MADE YOU JUMP! THEY'RE LEATHER MASKS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIRITS.
PAPA BROUGHT THEM BACK FROM OVERSEAS.
THANKS...
THANK YOU.
I HAD FIVE MADE SPECIALLY... I WANT US FIVE TO BE BEST FRIENDS FOREVER.

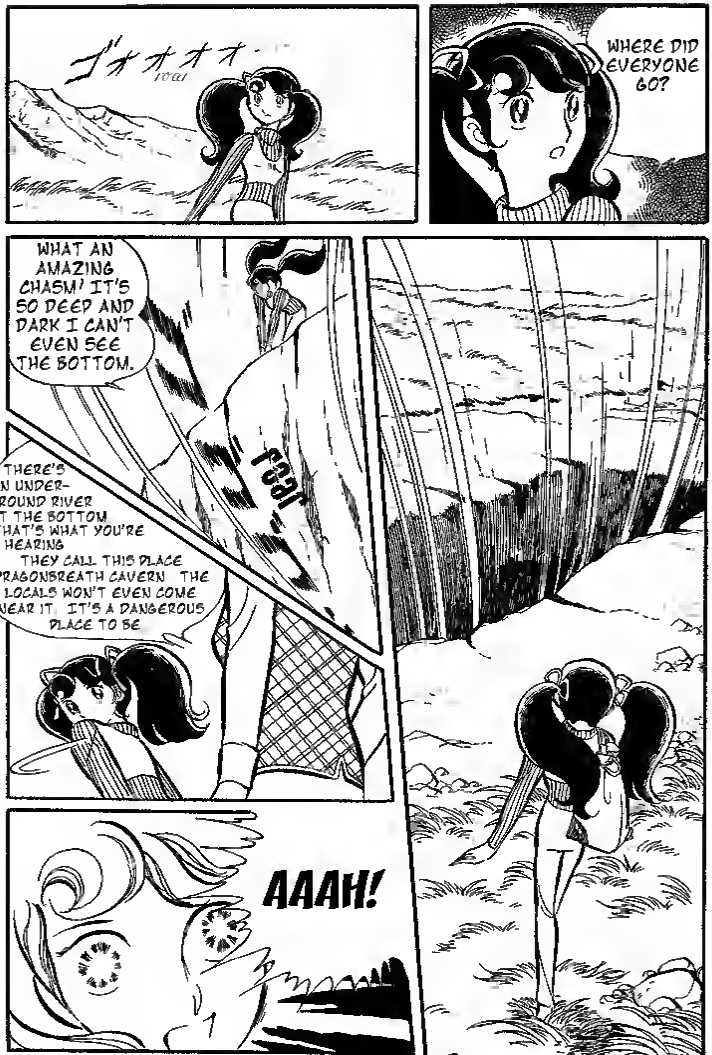
WAS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO ME
I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO SAY THANKS... BECOMING FRIENDS WITH YOU GUYS...
THANK YOU.. VERY MUCH.
MAMA...
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU
IT'S TOO BAD PAPA COULDN'T BE HERE, BUT IT'S A WONDERFUL PARTY ANYWAY DON'T YOU THINK, ALISA?
HERE'S TO ALISA!
ALISA HONJOU 13 YEARS OLD TODAY
THIS DAY IS THE APEX OF HER GOOD FORTUNE
AND, AT THE SAME TIME...
IT SERVES AS A PRELUDE TO THE TRAGEDY TO FOLLOW

Alisa of the Silver Hair (part 1)

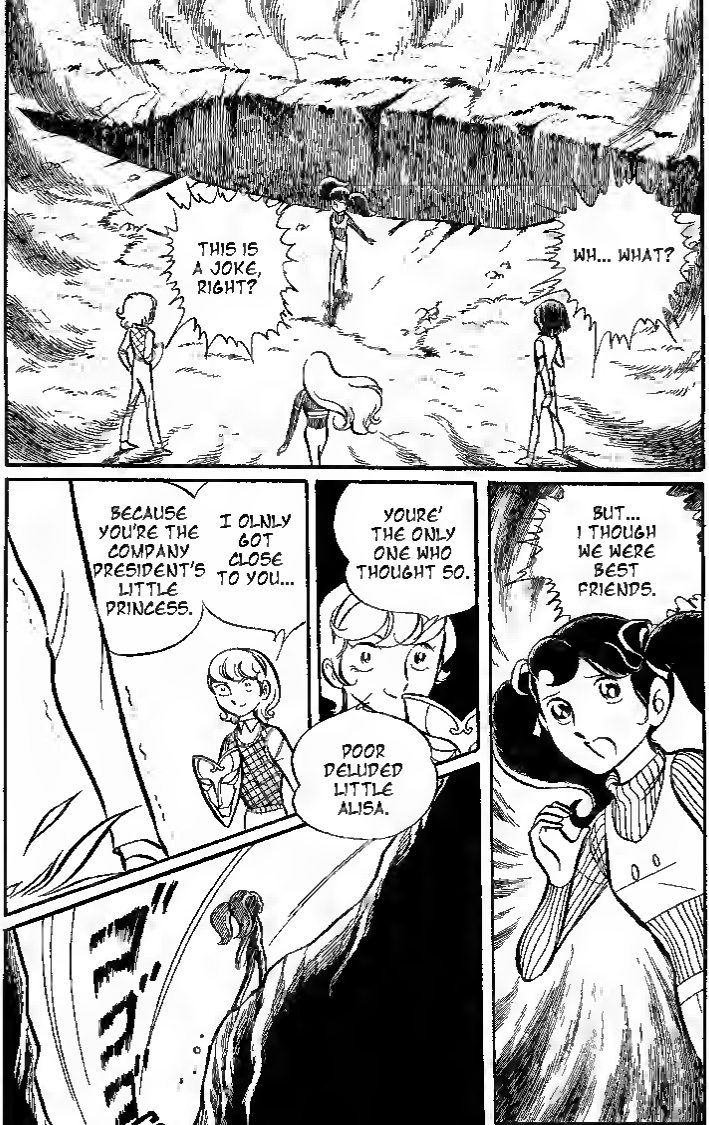
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT CAN'T BE!
本条
Honjou
I'M VERY SORRY TO BE THE BEARER OF BAD NEWS, MA'AM, BUT THE VICTIM OF THE ACCIDENT ON THE CLIFF OUSIDE K--- TOWNSHIP LAST NIGHT...
WAS YOUR HUSBAND, MR. KOUICHIROU HONJOU.
HE WAS KILLED INSTANTLY.
PAPA!

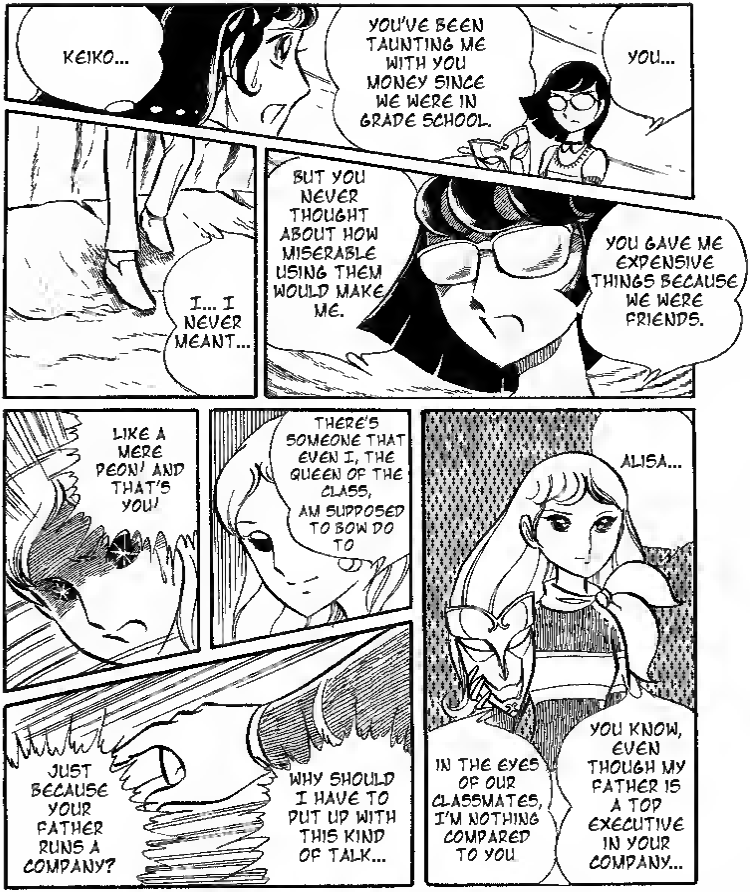
ALISA.
MIO...
SMIRK
SOB
SOB
SOB
LEAVE IT TO ME, PAPA.
THE THREE OF US WILL... TAKE CARE OF THINGS.
THE REST IS UP TO YOU, BENIKO!

IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE PAPA DIED. IT'S GOOD TO HAVE FRIENDS... I WAS MOPING AROUND, SO THEY INVITED ME TO COME HIKING.
WHAT A LOVELY PLACE.
キラキラ
ヒョオオオ
HUH?
ヒョオオオ
I'LL NEED TO HELP MAMA...
I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MYSELF FOR NOW ON.


ゴオオオオ…
roar
WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?
WHAT AN AMAZING CHASM! IT'S SO DEEP AND DARK I CAN'T EVEN SEE THE BOTTOM.
THERE'S AN UNDER-GROUND RIVER AT THE BOTTOM THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE HEARING
THEY CALL THIS PLACE DRAGONBREATH CAVERN. THE LOCALS WON'T EVEN COME NEAR IT. IT'S A DANGEROUS PLACE TO BE
roar
AAAH!

IT'S JUST THE MASK YOU GAVE ME. NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF
OH, IT'S YOU, MASAKO.
WHEW
WE DIDN'T TELL MIO
AFTER ALL SHE'S YOUR ALLY...
AND NO ONE KNOWS WE'RE HERE.
MIO SHOULD HAVE COME TOO.
ITS' SO PRETTY HERE.
KEIKO! BENIKO!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAKING DRAGONBREATH CAVERN YOUR GRAVE!
sTep


THIS IS A JOKE, RIGHT?
WH... WHAT?
BECAUSE YOU'RE THE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S LITTLE PRINCESS.
I ONLY GOT CLOSE TO YOU...
YOURE' THE ONLY ONE WHO THOUGHT SO.
POOR DELUDED LITTLE ALISA.
BUT... I THOUGH WE WERE BEST FRIENDS.
GOAT


KEIKO...
I... I NEVER MEANT...
YOU'VE BEEN TAUNTING ME WITH YOU MONEY SINCE WE WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL.
BUT YOU NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT HOW MISERABLE USING THEM WOULD MAKE ME.
YOU...
YOU GAVE ME EXPENSIVE THINGS BECAUSE WE WERE FRIENDS.
LIKE A MERE PEON! AND THAT'S YOU!
THERE'S SOMEONE THAT EVEN I, THE QUEEN OF THE CLASS, AM SUPPOSED TO BOW DO TO
JUST BECAUSE YOUR FATHER RUNS A COMPANY?
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS KIND OF TALK...
ALISA...
IN THE EYES OF OUR CLASSMATES, I'M NOTHING COMPARED TO YOU
YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH MY FATHER IS A TOP EXECUTIVE IN YOUR COMPANY...
THIS. THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!
IT HAS TO BE A DREAM.

AH!
stagger
baam
AAAAH!
BY THE WAY, I HAVE SOMETHING AMUSING TO TELL YOU.
SORT OF A SOUVENIER FOR THE AFTERLIFE
TEE HEE! GOOD FORM, ALISA!
IT'S ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S ACCIDENT IT WASN'T
MY FATHER ARRANGED THE WHOLE THING!
WHAT?!

NO!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.
HE TAMPERED WITH THE BOSS' BREAKS.
HE SHOULD BE ON HIS WAY TO YOUR MOTHER'S RIGHT NOW.
THE ENTIRE COMPANY WILL BE MINE!
YOU CAN ASK HER YOURSELF... IN HEAVEN!
TEE HEE HEE
WH... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO MAMA?
Bam!

HUH ..?
!?
WHO'S THERE?
I THOUGHT I HEARD ALISA... I MUST BE HEARING THINGS.
GO!
CLATTER
CLATTER
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
AH!

WHAM
WH... WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE DOING?
MY SEAL!
WHY, HELPING MYSELF TO YOUR SEAL, OF COURSE.
In Japan documents are normally signed with one of these instead of a signature
I'LL BE NEEDING IT TO TAKE OVER THE COMPANY.
THE DOCUMENTS ARE PREPARED.
OH HO! IS THAT WHERE IT IS?
YOU'LL SIGN THE PAPER WITH YOUR OWN HAND.
WE ARE, AFTER ALL, GENTLEMEN.

SOB
MR. SHIGARAKI.
HOUJOU INDUSTRIES IS NOW YOURS.
OKAY, YOU CAN SHOW THE GOOD LADY TO HER ACCOMMODATIONS AS PLANNED.
WHAT? ALISA IS...?
BY NOW, YOUR DAUGHTER SHOULD HAVE GONE TO HER ETERNAL REWARD.
NO...
ALISA!

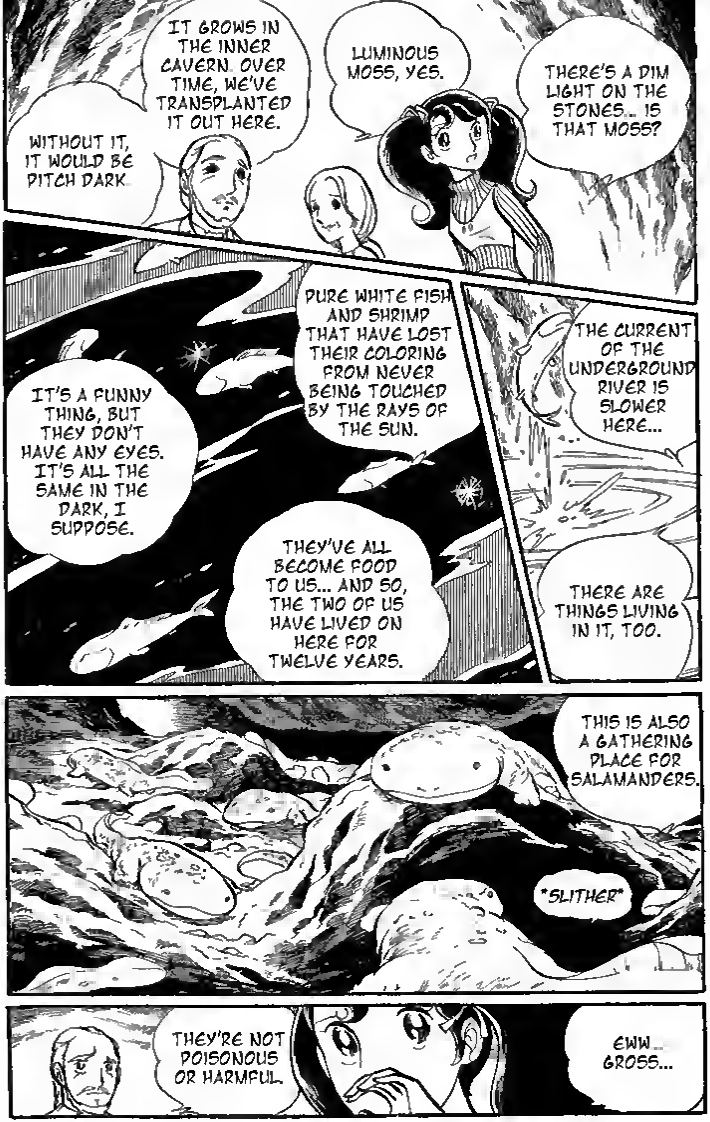
UGH...
ズズ…
ROAR

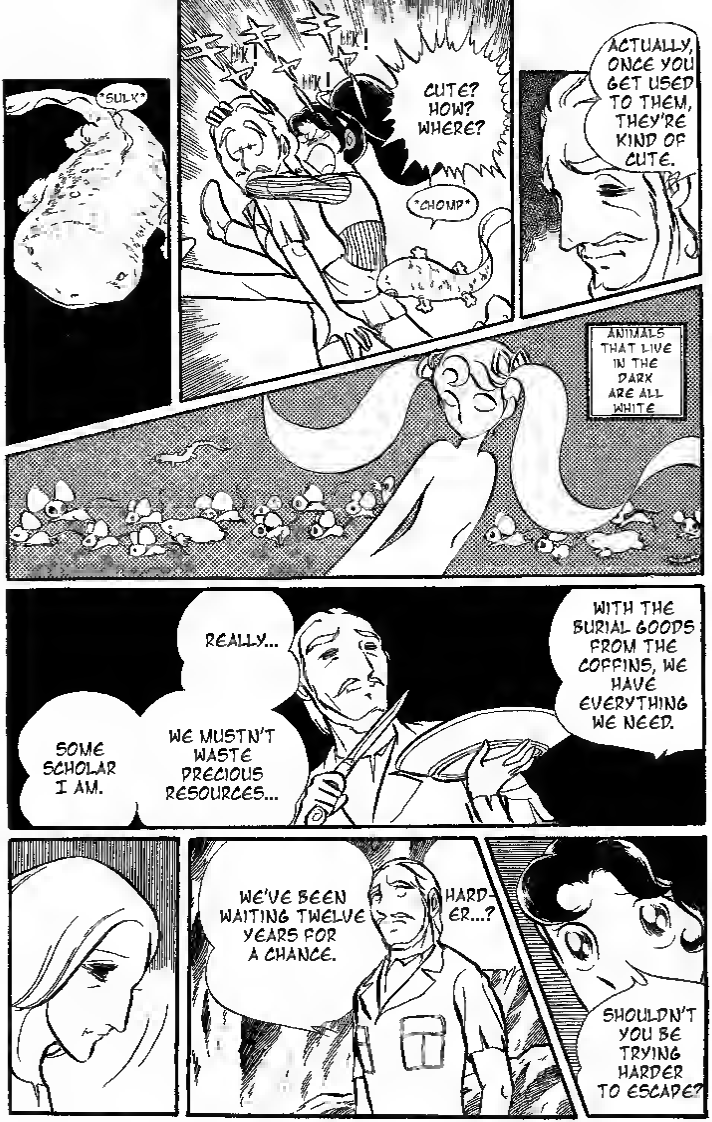
OH, SHE'S WAKING UP.
WHERE...
ROAR
OH!
ROAR

ROCK, ROCK, AND MORE ROCK...
WHERE ON EARTH...?!
YOU CAME FLOATING DOWN THE UNDERGROUND RIVER THERE.
WE FISHED YOU OUT.
WE'RE UNDER-GROUND...
BY THE WAY, COULD YOU TELL ME WHAT YEAR IT IS?
UH, SURE.
IT'S SHOWA 44, BUT...
WAIT! YOU'VE BEEN DOWN HERE SO LONG THAT...?
44... THAT MEANS WE'RE BEEN IMPRISONED HERE FOR TWELVE YEARS.
WHAT?

*SHOWA 44 = 1969

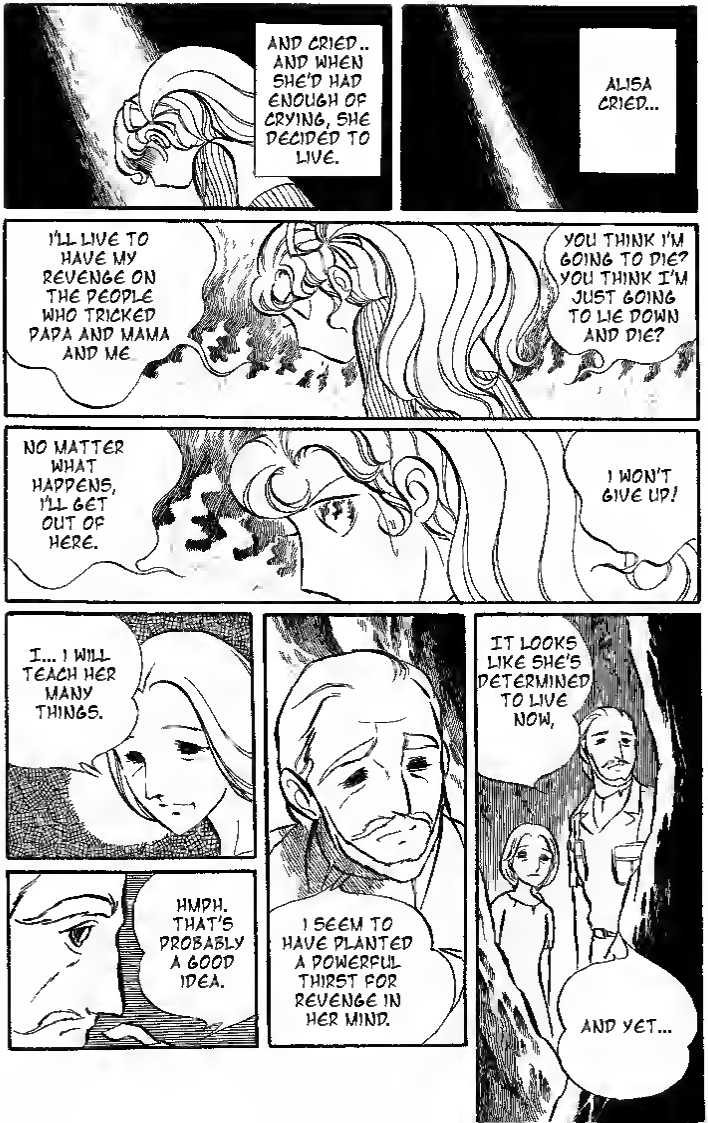
WE COULDN'T DIG THROUGH THE DENSE ROCK WALL HERE.
SO... THERE'S NO WAY TO...
YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE COULD GO BACK UPSTREAM.
AND THE RAPIDS... YOU MADE IT THROUGH WITHOUT EVEN SWALLOWING ANY WATER BECAUSE...
THIS LOOKS TO BE A TOMB FROM THE ASUKA PERIOD.
AND WE HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST NOTION HOW LONG THE TUNNEL DOWNSTREAM IS.
I BELIEVE THIS IS ONE OF THEM.
THEY WOULD BUILD LABYRYNTHS TO KEEP THEIR TOMBS FROM BEING DISTURBED.
SPLOOSH
AS A MATTER OF FACT, MY WIFE AND I WERE HERE TO STUDY THE RUINS.
TO CORNER THIEVES IN AN INESCAPABLE PRISON.

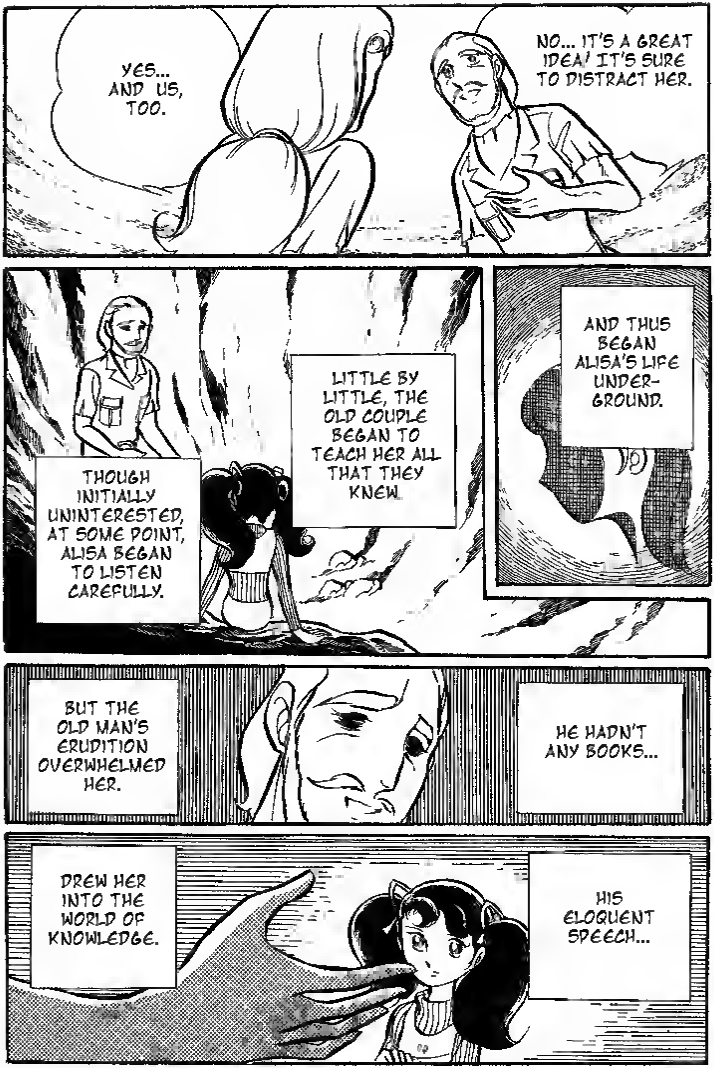

THERE'S A DIM LIGHT ON THE STONES... IS THAT MOSS?
LUMINOUS MOSS, YES.
IT GROWS IN THE INNER CAVERN. OVER TIME, WE'VE TRANSPLANTED IT OUT HERE.
WITHOUT IT, IT WOULD BE PITCH DARK.
THE CURRENT OF THE UNDERGROUND RIVER IS SLOWER HERE...
THERE ARE THINGS LIVING IN IT, TOO.
PURE WHITE FISH AND SHRIMP THAT HAVE LOST THEIR COLORING FROM NEVER BEING TOUCHED BY THE RAYS OF THE SUN.
IT'S A FUNNY THING, BUT THEY DON'T HAVE ANY EYES. IT'S ALL THE SAME IN THE DARK, I SUPPOSE.
THEY'VE ALL BECOME FOOD TO US... AND SO, THE TWO OF US HAVE LIVED ON HERE FOR TWELVE YEARS.
THIS IS ALSO A GATHERING PLACE FOR SALAMANDERS.
SLITHER
EWW... GROSS...
THEY'RE NOT POISONOUS OR HARMFUL.

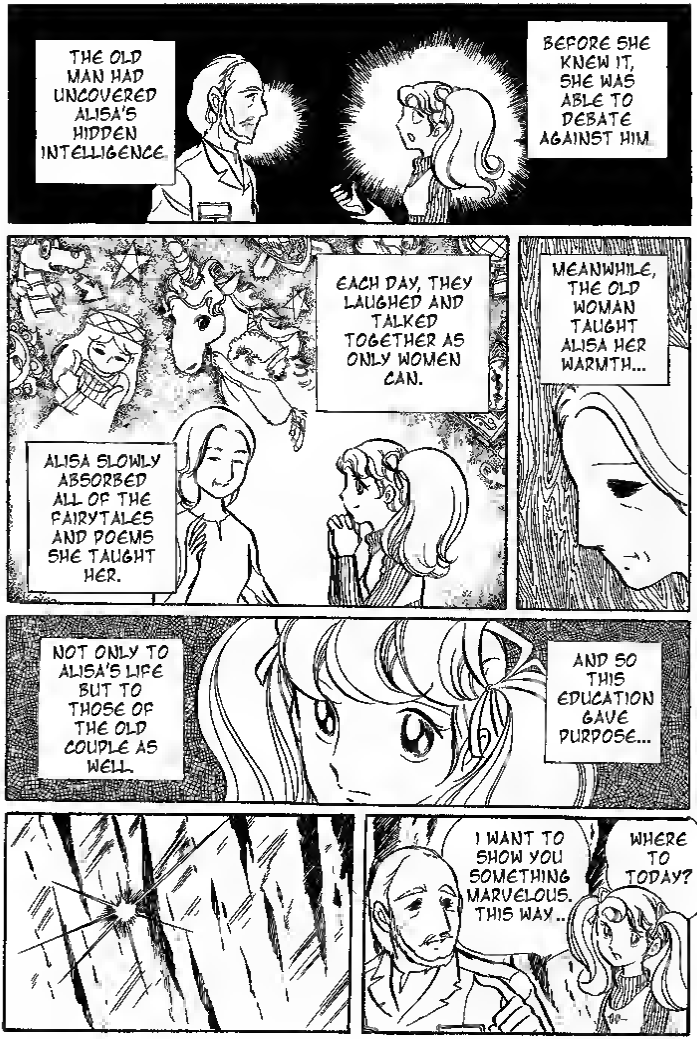

ACTUALLY, ONCE YOU GET USED TO THEM, THEY'RE KIND OF CUTE.
CUTE? HOW? WHERE?
"CHOMP"
"SULK"
ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN THE DARK ARE ALL WHITE
WITH THE BURIAL GOODS FROM THE COFFINS, WE HAVE EVERYTHING WE NEED.
REALLY...
WE MUSTN'T WASTE PRECIOUS RESOURCES...
SOME SCHOLAR I AM.
WE'VE BEEN WAITING TWELVE YEARS FOR A CHANCE.
HARD-ER...?
SHOULDN'T YOU BE TRYING HARDER TO ESCAPE?

IN THE DARKNESS ALISA RECOUNTED THE WHOLE TALE FROM START TO FINISH.
THE TRUTH IS...
HOW DID YOU COME TO BE HERE?
AND NOW IT IS YOUR TURN.
OH MY...
OH...
I SEE... SO YOUR FRIENDS...
EVERYTHING WILL BE FINE. JUST FINE...
NO...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO..
THEY'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING TO MAMA.
IT'S PROBABLY BEST TO ASSUME SHE'S ALREADY DEAD...

OH!
BAM!
THINK OF WHAT YOUR FRIENDS DID TO YOU... WHAT THEN COULD THEIR PARENTS HAVE DONE TO YOURS?
NO... SHE CAN'T BE!
YOU DON'T THINK SO?
DID YOU REALLY HAVE TO..
I HAD NO CHOICE. THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE HER STRONG ENOUGH TO SURVIVE.

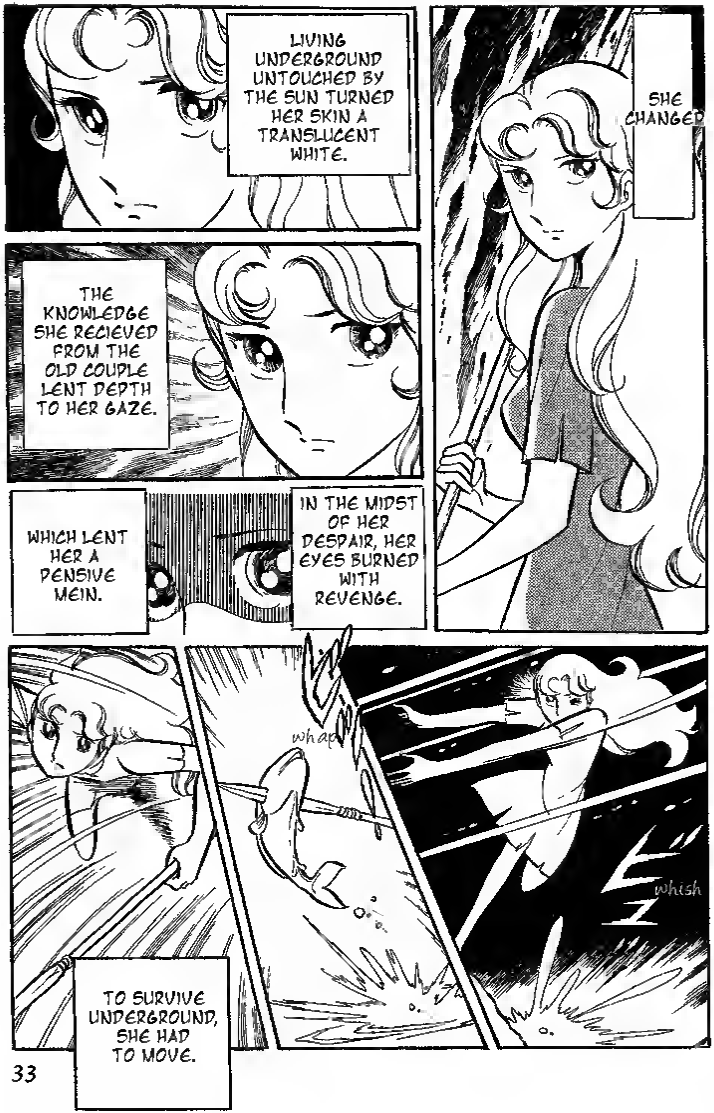

AND CRIED.. AND WHEN SHE'D HAD ENOUGH OF CRYING, SHE DECIDED TO LIVE.
ALISA CRIED...
I'LL LIVE TO HAVE MY REVENGE ON THE PEOPLE WHO TRICKED PAPA AND MAMA AND ME.
YOU THINK I'M GOING TO DIE? YOU THINK I'M JUST GOING TO LIE DOWN AND DIE?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL GET OUT OF HERE.
I WON'T GIVE UP!
I... I WILL TEACH HER MANY THINGS.
HMPH. THAT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA.
I SEEM TO HAVE PLANTED A POWERFUL THIRST FOR REVENGE IN HER MIND.
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S DETERMINED TO LIVE NOW,
AND YET...

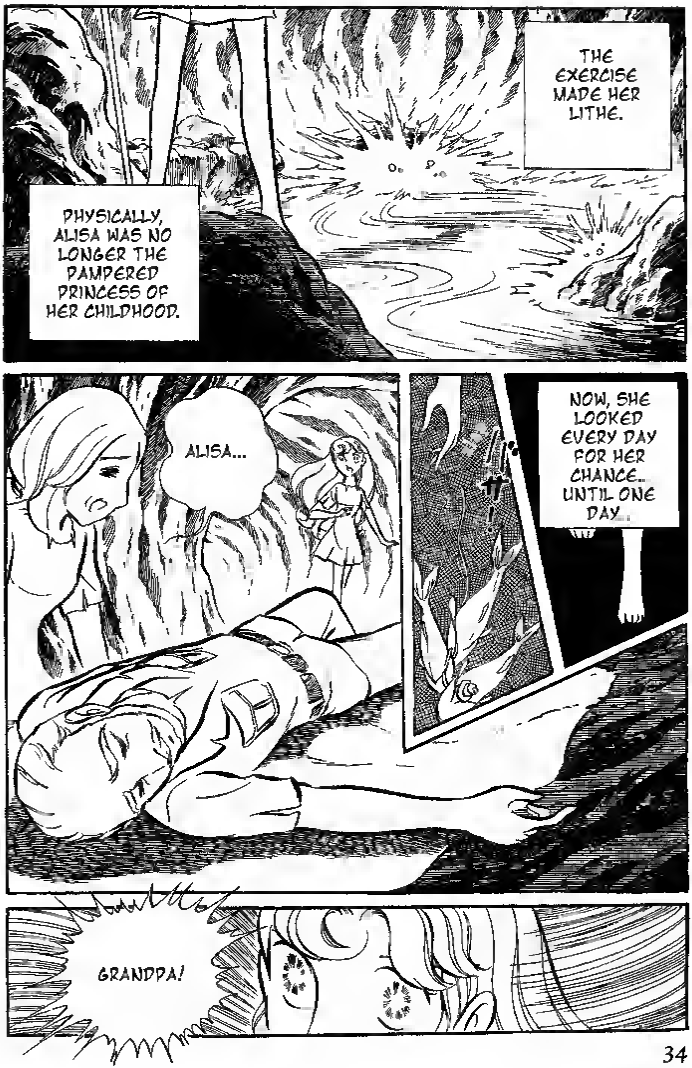

YES... AND US, TOO.
NO... IT'S A GREAT IDEA! IT'S SURE TO DISTRACT HER.
AND THUS BEGAN ALISA'S LIFE UNDER-GROUND.
LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE OLD COUPLE BEGAN TO TEACH HER ALL THAT THEY KNEW.
THOUGH INITIALLY UNINTERESTED, AT SOME POINT, ALISA BEGAN TO LISTEN CAREFULLY.
BUT THE OLD MAN'S ERUDITION OVERWHELMED HER.
HE HADN'T ANY BOOKS...
DREW HER INTO THE WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE.
HIS ELOQUENT SPEECH...


THE OLD MAN HAD UNCOVERED ALISA'S HIDDEN INTELLIGENCE.
BEFORE SHE KNEW IT, SHE WAS ABLE TO DEBATE AGAINST HIM.
EACH DAY, THEY LAUGHED AND TALKED TOGETHER AS ONLY WOMEN CAN.
ALISA SLOWLY ABSORBED ALL OF THE FAIRYTALES AND POEMS SHE TAUGHT HER.
MEANWHILE, THE OLD WOMAN TAUGHT ALISA HER WARMTH...
NOT ONLY TO ALISA'S LIFE BUT TO THOSE OF THE OLD COUPLE AS WELL.
AND SO THIS EDUCATION GAVE PURPOSE...
I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING MARVELOUS. THIS WAY...
WHERE TO TODAY?

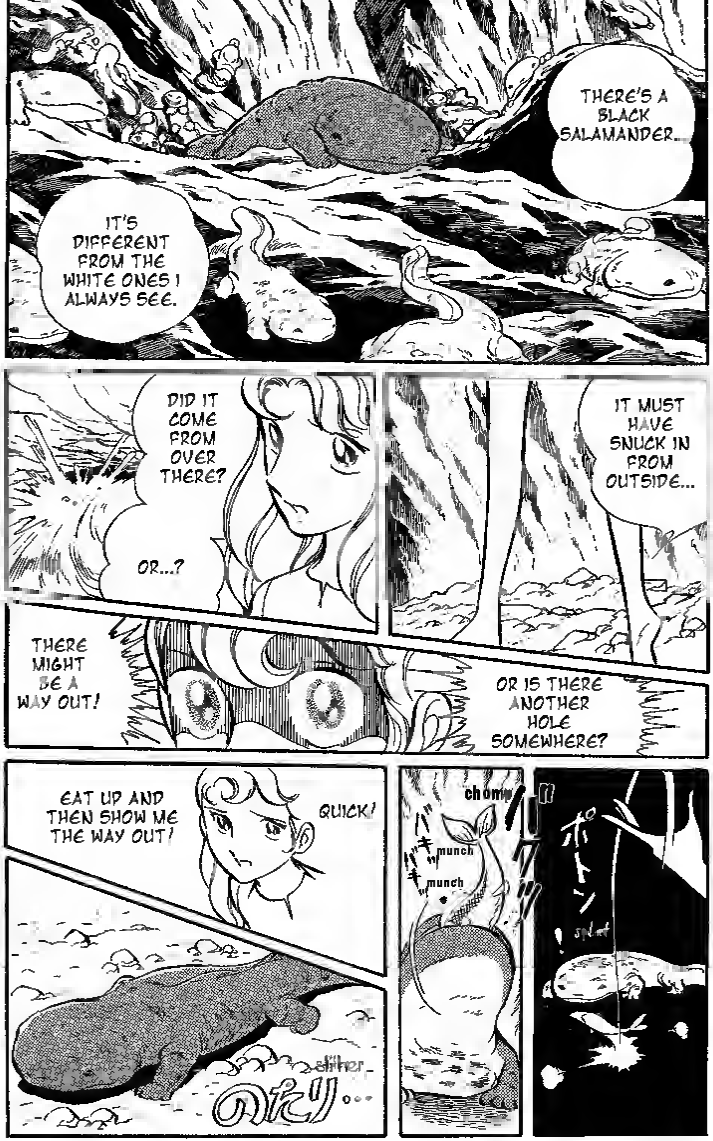
HAH. NO, I'M SURE OF IT.
I'M NOT AN EXPERT IN GEOLOGY, INDEED. BUT I'D SAY THIS IS A HIGH QUALITY JADE.
THIS GLITTERING STONE... IT'S...
...NOT MUCH USE DOWN HERE, THOUGH.
IT'S WORTHLESS FROM AN ARCHEOLOGICAL PRESPECTIVE, BUT IT WOULD BE WORTH A FORTUNE ABOVE GROUND.
BUT IT WOULD BE THE SAME UP THERE. LIFE ISN'T...
LIFE ISN'T ABOUT WHAT YOU OWN OR HOW MUCH YOU HAVE.

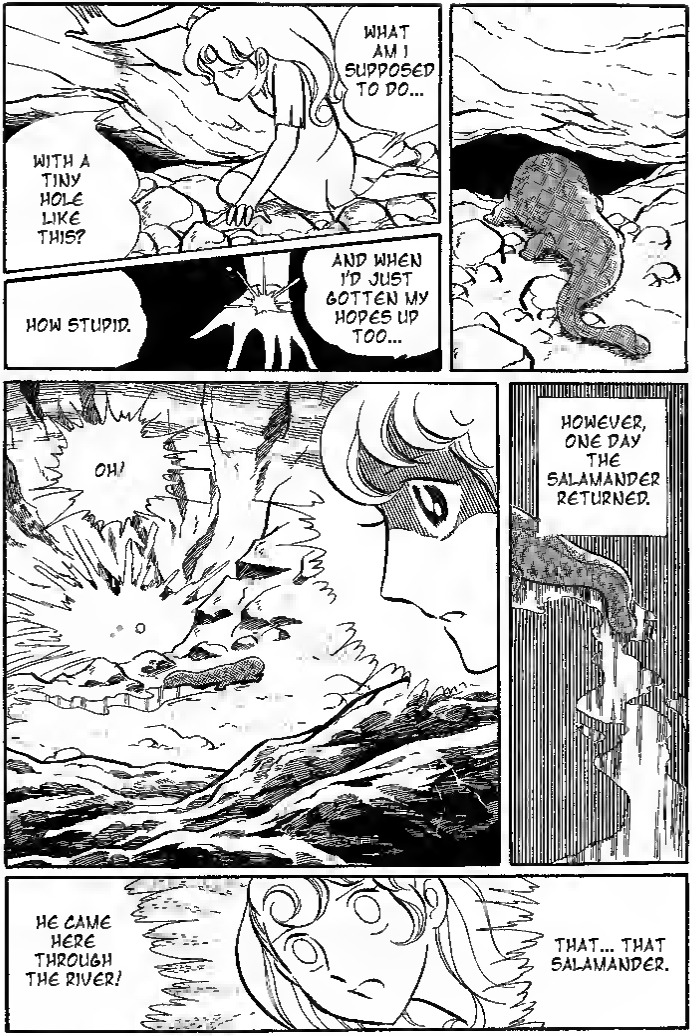
IT WAS PEOPLE WHO DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT THAT THREW ME DOWN HERE...
AND HERE I AM.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THAT WHEN I LIVED ABOVE GROUND...
WHEN I FINALLY ESCAPE, THIS WILL FUND MY CAMPAIGN...
JADE... IF THIS IS THE REAL THING...
AND SO THE YEARS PASSED.
ALISA GREW UP...
BUT I'LL WORK HARD FOR THAT DAY.
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I'LL GET MY CHANCE.

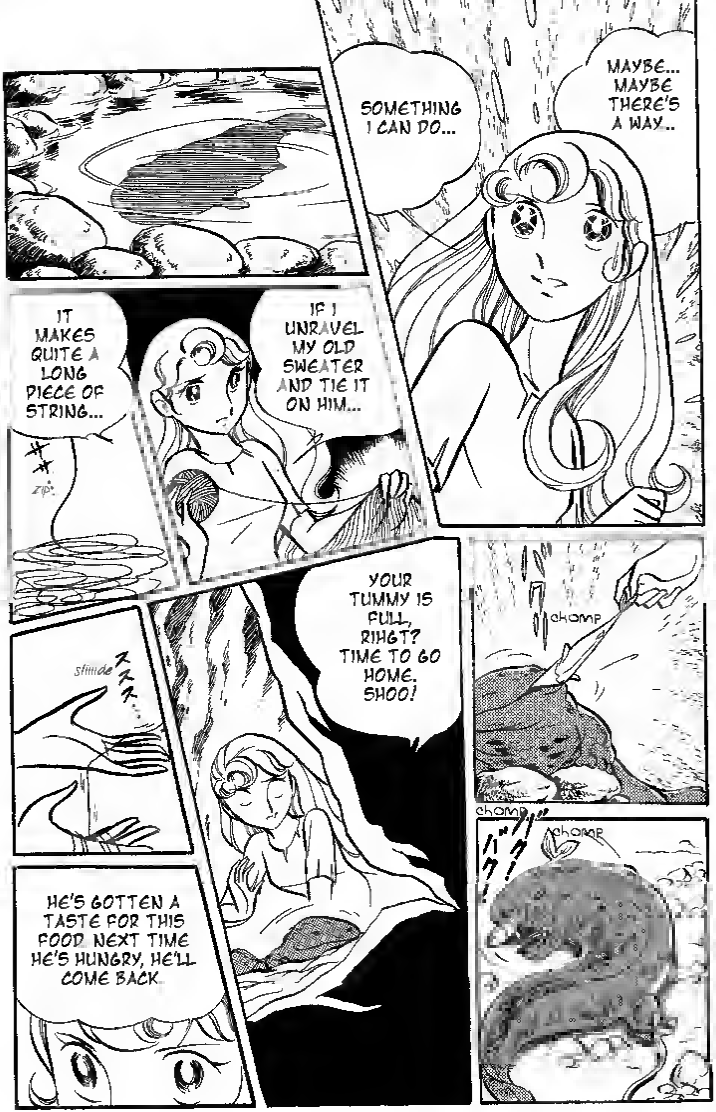

LIVING UNDERGROUND UNTOUCHED BY THE SUN TURNED HER SKIN A TRANSLUCENT WHITE.
SHE CHANGED
THE KNOWLEDGE SHE RECIEVED FROM THE OLD COUPLE LENT DEPTH TO HER GAZE.
IN THE MIDST OF HER DESPAIR, HER EYES BURNED WITH REVENGE.
WHICH LENT HER A PENSIVE MEIN.
whap
whish
TO SURVIVE UNDERGROUND, SHE HAD TO MOVE.

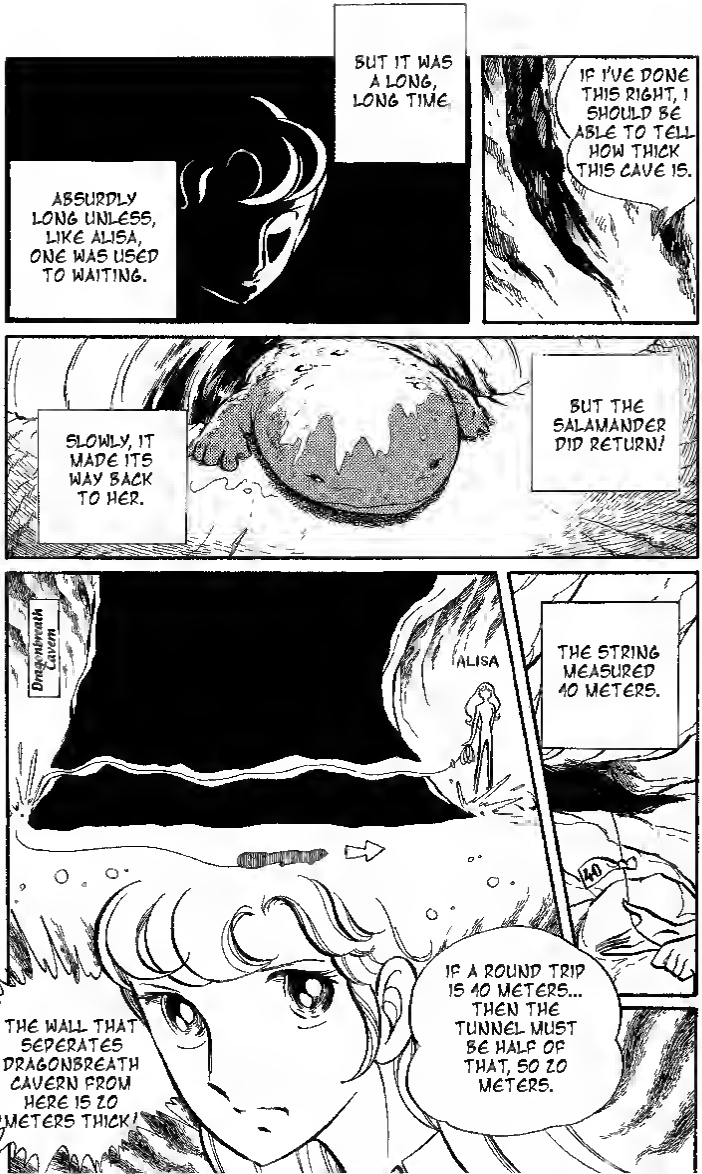

PHYSICALLY, ALISA WAS NO LONGER THE PAMPERED PRINCESS OF HER CHILDHOOD.
THE EXERCISE MADE HER LITHE.
ALISA...
NOW, SHE LOOKED EVERY DAY FOR HER CHANCE... UNTIL ONE DAY...
GRANDPA!

IF THE GODS WILL IT, THEN THIS IS MY TIME...
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF, ALISA.
YES.
ARE YOU STILL PLANNING TO TAKE YOUR REVENGE...?
BUT ENOUGH OF THAT. IF YOU ESCAPE TO THE OUTSIDE...
IN THAT CASE, THE SALAMANDER'S...
I SEE... I SUPPOSE THERE'S NO HELP FOR IT...
HIS WIFE BREATHED HER LAST.
SOON, AS THOUGH SHE WERE FOLLOWING HIM...
AND WITH THOSE WORDS, HE LAY DOWN AND DIED.
OH?!
ALISA SLOWLY FULFILLED THE COUPLE'S LAST REQUEST
WITH A HEAVY HEART...


THERE'S A BLACK SALAMANDER...
IT'S DIFFERENT FROM THE WHITE ONES I ALWAYS SEE.
DID IT COME FROM OVER THERE?
OR...?
IT MUST HAVE SNUCK IN FROM OUTSIDE...
THERE MIGHT BE A WAY OUT!
OR IS THERE ANOTHER HOLE SOMEWHERE?
EAT UP AND THEN SHOW ME THE WAY OUT!
QUICK!
slither
のたり...
chomp
munch
munch
ポトン
splat

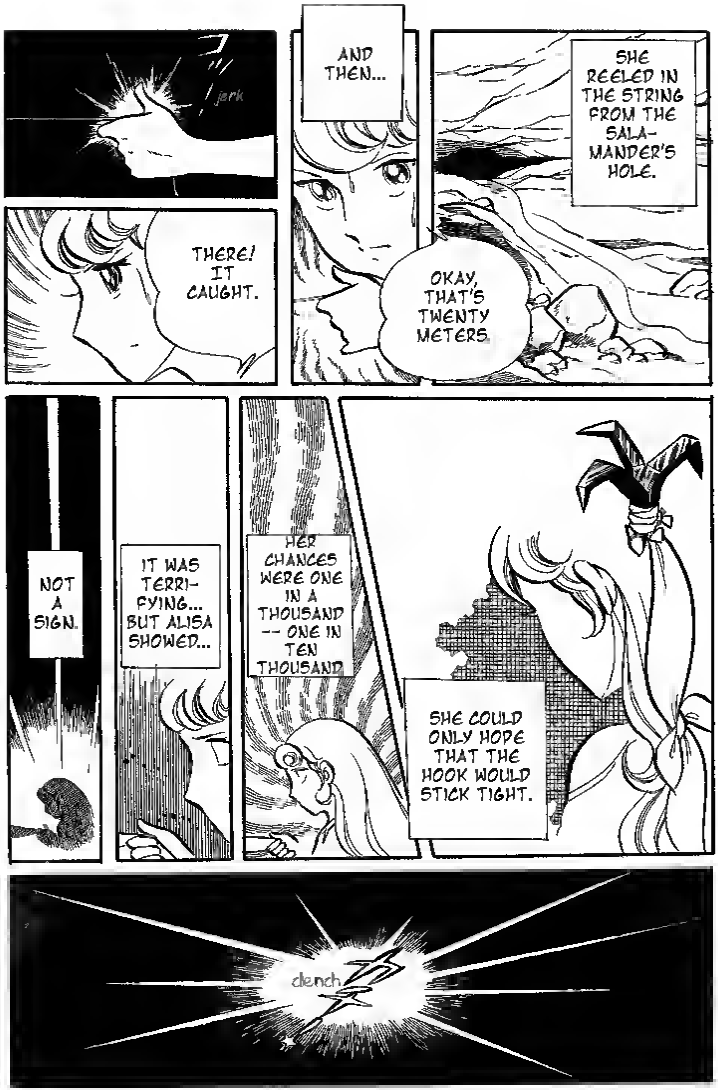

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...
WITH A TINY HOLE LIKE THIS?
AND WHEN I'D JUST GOTTEN MY HOPES UP TOO...
HOW STUPID.
OH!
HOWEVER, ONE DAY THE SALAMANDER RETURNED.
HE CAME HERE THROUGH THE RIVER!
THAT... THAT SALAMANDER.


MAYBE... MAYBE THERE'S A WAY..
SOMETHING I CAN DO...
IF I UNRAVEL MY OLD SWEATER AND TIE IT ON HIM...
IT MAKES QUITE A LONG PIECE OF STRING...
zip
YOUR TUMMY IS FULL, RIGHT? TIME TO GO HOME, SHOO!
shhhde
chomp
chomp
chomp
HE'S GOTTEN A TASTE FOR THIS FOOD. NEXT TIME HE'S HUNGRY, HE'LL COME BACK.


BUT IT WAS A LONG, LONG TIME
ABSURDLY LONG UNLESS, LIKE ALISA, ONE WAS USED TO WAITING.
IF I'VE DONE THIS RIGHT, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TELL HOW THICK THIS CAVE IS.
SLOWLY, IT MADE ITS WAY BACK TO HER.
BUT THE SALAMANDER DID RETURN!
Dragonbreath Cavern
ALISA
THE STRING MEASURED 40 METERS.
IF A ROUND TRIP IS 40 METERS... THEN THE TUNNEL MUST BE HALF OF THAT, SO 20 METERS.
THE WALL THAT SEPERATES DRAGONBREATH CAVERN FROM HERE IS 20 METERS THICK!

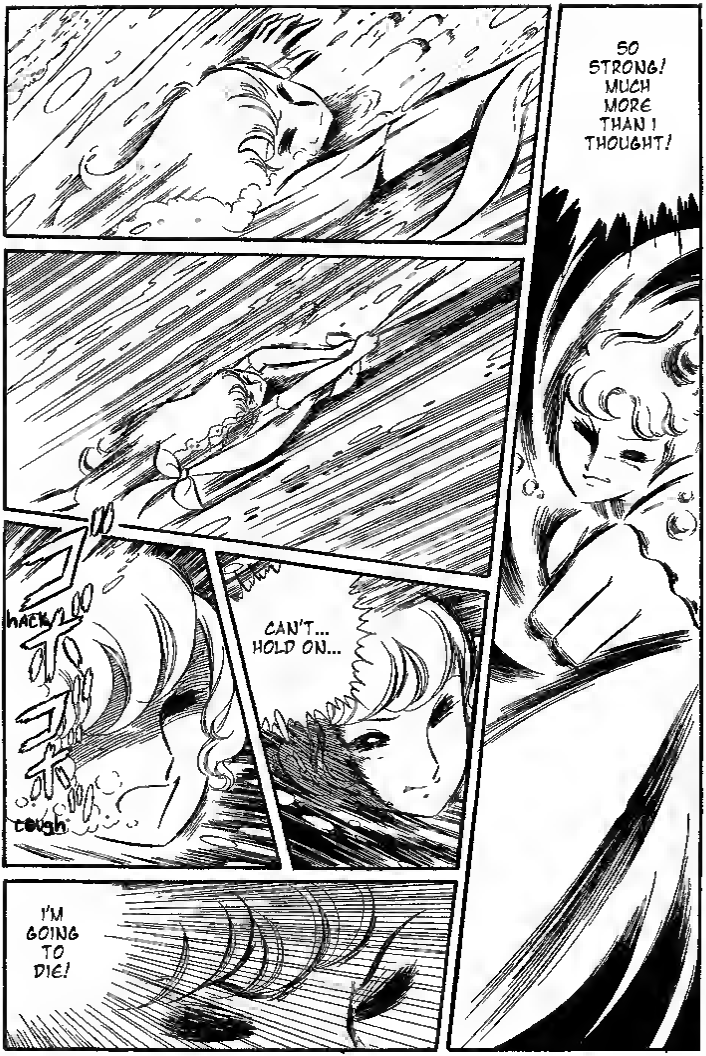
BUT... BUT...
IT WASN'T A LONG DISTANCE BY ANY MEANS...
IT'S ONLY TWENTY METERS!
BUT THE RAGING STREAM WITH ITS WHIRLPOOL CURRENT MADE IT SEEM TEN TIMES AS LONG.
I WANT TO GET OUT!
I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
I WILL GET OUT! NO MATTER WHAT!
NO MATTER WHAT, I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!

rip
rip
I'LL TIE EVERYTHING I CAN TOGETHER.
Hop
AND FASTEN IT WITH THE YARN.
I'LL USE ONE OF THE TOOLS FROM THE RUINS...
Jerk
Jerk
Jerk
Jerk
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S READY.


jerk
THERE! IT CAUGHT.
AND THEN...
OKAY, THAT'S TWENTY METERS.
SHE REELED IN THE STRING FROM THE SALA-MANDER'S HOLE.
NOT A SIGN.
IT WAS TERRI-FYING... BUT ALISA SHOWED...
HER CHANCES WERE ONE IN A THOUSAND -- ONE IN TEN THOUSAND.
SHE COULD ONLY HOPE THAT THE HOOK WOULD STICK TIGHT.
clench

IT'S CAUGHT ON THE ROCKS!
HOORAY!
tug!
ROAAAAAAAR
ROAAAAAAAR

gasp
YOU CAN DO IT, ALISA!
IF THE HOOK BREAKS OR YOU CAN'T HOLD YOUR BREATH...
YOU'RE ONLY GETTING ONE CHANCE AT THIS, ALISA!
YOU COULD END UP SMASHED TO DEATH
ON THE ROCKS!
SPLOOSH
ROAAAAAAAAAAR


SO STRONG! MUCH MORE THAN I THOUGHT!
CAN'T... HOLD ON...
hack
cough
I'M GOING TO DIE!

ASK HER YOURSELF....
AH HA HA HA HA!
ME BOW DOWN TO YOU? RIDICULOUS!
IN HEAVEN!
HA HA HA HA!
YOUR FATHER'S ACCIDENT -- HE TAMPERED WITH THE BREAKS...
OH!
bam
I CAN'T GIVE UP!
IT'S THE EXIT!
WHOOOOOSH
jerk

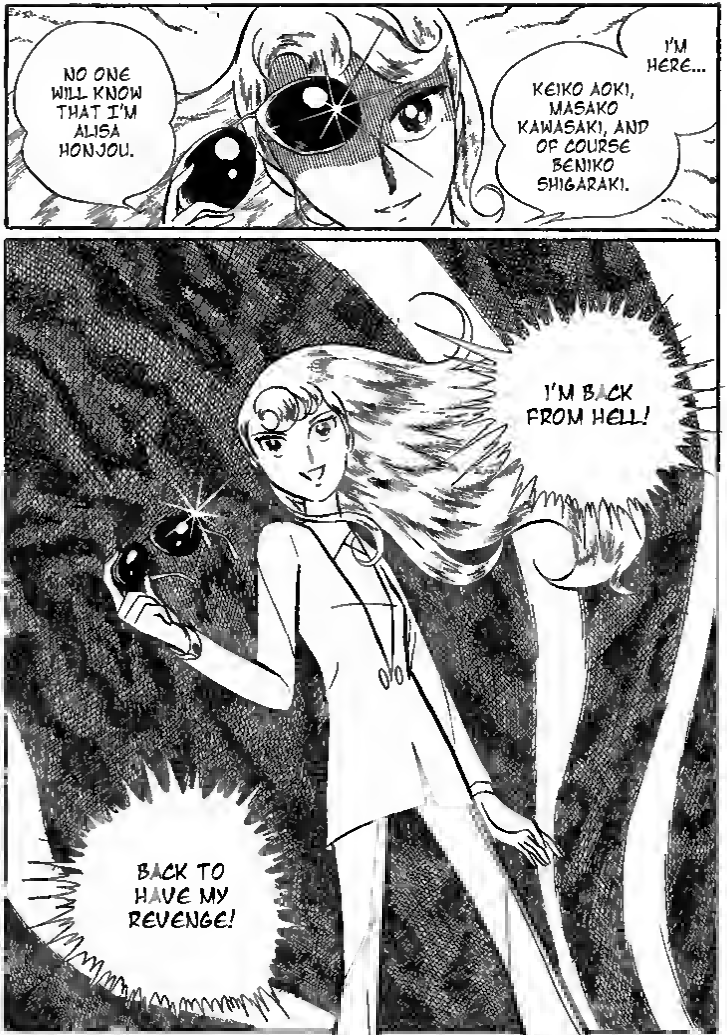
I CAN SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.
I... I'M OUT.
IT'S NIGHT... BUT THE MOONLIGHT IS BRIGHT.
OH!
NIGHT WILL END, THE SUN WILL RISE... I'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THE GREEN, GREEN WORLD.
THE MOON, THE STARS... JUST AS I REMEMBERED.

SILVER?!
HUH...?
THE JADE...! SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET STARTED WITH THIS.
ぶわっ
MY HAIR... WHY DID IT GO WHITE?!
NO!
NO!
LIVING UNDERGROUND, UNTOUCHED BY THE SUN...
LEFT TO SUFFER IN THE DARK...
ALISA'S HAIR HADN'T JUST TURNED. IT HAD TURNED SILVER

AAAAAAH!
AFTER THAT, ALISA DISAPPEARED TO PARTS UNKNOWN.
AND SO WE MUST PAUSE OUR STORY.
Hyoooooooo

THE CHAIRMAN IS PRACTICALLY HAVING A HEART ATTACK.
SHE'S HERE! IT'S THAT JET, OVER THERE!
SO THAT RUMOR WAS TRUE?
DONA-TION?
DON'T WHINE.
SHE'S JUST A TRANSFER STUDENT.
IT'S BECAUSE OF HER DONATION.
JEEZ. SENDING EVERY SINGLE STUDENT FROM SEIRYOU ACADEMY TO STAND AROUND AT THE AIRPORT?
YEAH... IT WAS ENOUGH TO FUND THE SCHOOL FOR TWO YEARS, OR SO I HEARD.
I HEAR YOU'RE IN QUITE A SNIT, BENIKO.
BENIKO SHIGARAKI'S THE RICHEST GIRL IN SCHOOL, AND SHE LOOKS PISSED.
LOOK.

MASAKO.
KEIKO IS INTERESTED TOO.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE HER, THE THREE OF US CAN GET RID OF HER TOGETHER
NOT I.
THOUGH I DO WONDER WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE IS...
OH HELL, THOSE THREE ARE PLOTTING SOMETHING AGAIN.
OF COURSE
IS THE RESULTS OF LAST WEEK'S TEST.
THE TEACHER SAID HE'D POST THE RESULTS AS SOON AS WE GOT BACK.
THE ONLY THING THAT INTERESTS ME...
OH! THE DOOR OPENED!
HERE THEY COME.
WHICH ONE'S THE TRANSFER STUDENT?
OH! THERE SHE IS!
LOOK AT HER SILVER HAIR! WHAT AN AMAZING WIG!
WOW! SHE'S SO STYLISH!


NO ONE WILL KNOW THAT I'M ALISA HONJOU.
I'M HERE... KEIKO AOKI, MASAKO KAWASAKI, AND OF COURSE BENIKO SHIGARAKI.
I'M BACK FROM HELL!
BACK TO HAVE MY REVENGE!

Alisa of the Silver Hair (End of Part 1)

File 1348597351171.png-(239 KB 415x617 1330765729583.png)

Anonymous 09/25/12/(Tue)10:45:59 UTC-5 No.72071593 Replies >>72073807 >>72154459

Hey /a/

I am looking for a manga that my mother used to read a long time ago during her youthful high school days in Japan. She never finished reading it. She had forgotten the name of it, and I was hoping you would be able to help out.

It is about a young girl who's rich parents died for some reason. She was in line to inherit their wealth, but she was too young at the time to manage it. Her evil relatives aunts/uncles(?) stepped in and took it all away from her, but not before going out into the woods and losing her into a hole in the ground from which there was no escape. It was the entrance to a vast cave network with no known exits.

There, she meets a pair of old scientists/geologists who managed to get themselves stuck inside that cave many years earlier. The three of them live as a happy family beneath the Earth, until the old couple dies and she was mostly grown up. She was given a collection of very rare gemstones and jewels.

The girl goes about the cave, eventually finding an alternative exit. By the time she sees daylight again, her hair had turned completely white.

She begins going to school, using her extremely expensive gemstones to fund herself, and seeks to have her revenge. Her (I think male) cousin attends the same school.

No one knows who she is, etc. etc.

That is all of the information I have.

This manga translation came about as a result of a thread on /a/, wherin op inquired about an old manga his/her mother read in high school. Sauce was delivered and a crack team of scanlators was quickly assembled to translated this otherwise neglected old gem

Thanks to:
Distaff Scans for part 1 translation
oldschoolshoujofaces.tumbler.com for raws

Translation: Ladholyman
editing/TLcheck: anonymous
Resize/leveling: holanio
cleaning/typesetting: typesetfag (aka tubes)

I am using comic sans and nobody can stop me

銀色の髪の亜里沙(後)
Alisa of the Silver Hair (Part Two)

Sign: Nozawa Mental Hospital

I'M TRYING TO ENJOY MY BOTTLE HERE. PLEASE GO.
ズズ!
FOUR YEARS AGO? YUKIE HONJOU? I HAVE NO IDEA.
I WANT INFORMATION ABOUT A CERTAIN YUKIE HONJOU.
SHE WAS FORCED INTO THIS DUMP OF A MENTAL HOSPITAL FOUR YEARS AGO.

SFX: Shatter

銀色の髪の亜里沙(後)
Alisa of the Silver Hair (Part Two)

I'M SERIOUS!
GASP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HOW ABOUT NOW?
SHE KEPT SCREAMING HOW HER DAUGHTER AND HUSBAND WERE MURDERED!
UM... I REMEMBER THAT PATIENT QUITE CLEARLY!
WHAT WAS WAS IT NOW? OH! IT WAS "ALISA"!
SHE WOULD CALL OUT HER DAUGHTER'S NAME EVERY NIGHT.
S-SHE'S DEAD.
DEAD?!
I CAN STILL HEAR IT, EVEN NOW.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?

SHE'S DEAD?!
MAMA'S DEAD?!
AFTER BEING ADMITTED, SHE WOULDN'T EAT A SINGLE BITE.
BUT IT WAS MORE LIKE SUICIDE.
SHE WITHERED AWAY TEN DAYS LATER, CALLING OUT HER DAUGHTER'S NAME...
UNFORGIVABLE!
THEY MURDERED PAPA, STOLE HIS COMPANY, AND EVEN DROVE MAMA TO HER DEATH!
HOW DARE THEY LIVE SUCH CAREFREE LIVES WHEN THEY'VE TRAMPLED ALL OVER MY FAMILY'S HAPPINESS!
I'LL GET MY REVENGE! I SWEAR IT UPON THIS SILVER HAIR!

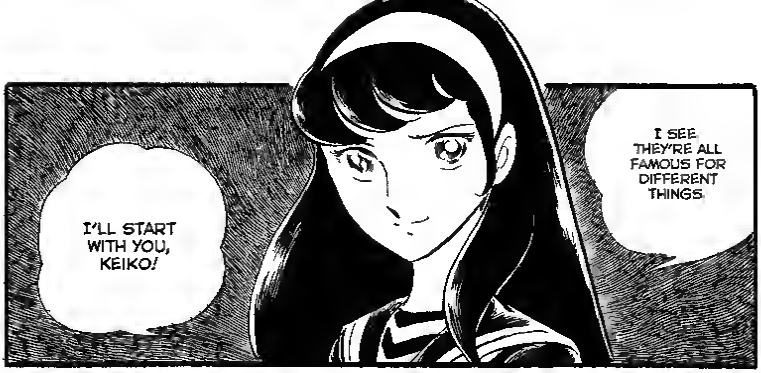
HEY, WE'RE GETTING A TRANSFER STUDENT! SHE'S COME BACK FROM OVERSEAS AND SHE'S A BEAUTY!
REALLY?!
OH!
WOOHOO!
SFX: OH YEAH! HURRAY! YEAH!
EW, THE BOYS ARE ALL OVER THE TRANSFER STUDENT
HMPH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
NO IDEA.
SHE'S HERE!

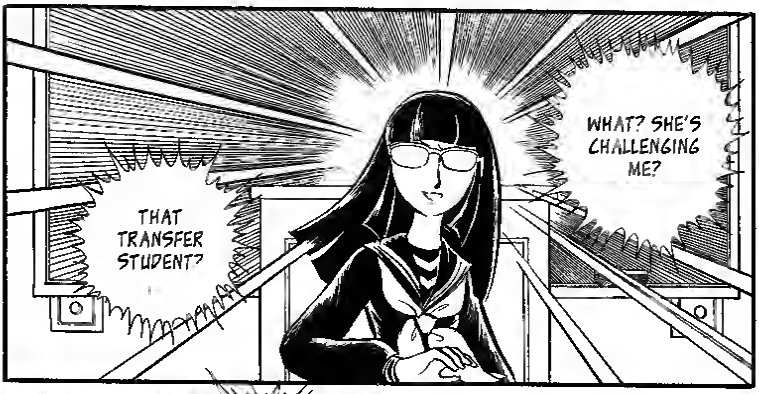
SHE CAME BACK FROM THE U.S. A FEW DAYS AGO, AND WILL BE JOINING OUR CLASS.
HER NAME IS ALISA HIDAKA. PLEASE GIVE HER A WARM WELCOME.
NEWS SURE TRAVELS FAST. LET ME OFFICIALLY INTRODUCE HER.
ALISA! ALISA?!
ALISA HIDAKA...
IT MUST BE A COINCIDENCE THAT NAME BRINGS UP UNPLEASANT MEMORIES.
SO YOU "DO" HAVE A GUILTY CONSCIENCE!
THE MASTERMIND BEHIND IT ALL, BENIKO SHIGARAKI!
OH? ISN'T THAT...?
IT'S MIO!
ピタッ

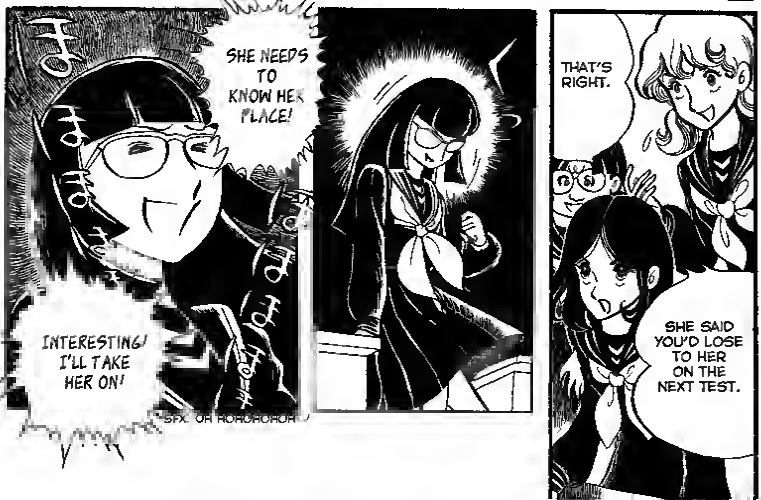
THE CAFETERIA? LET ME SHOW YOU THE WAY.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE DOESN'T RECOGNIZE ME. SORRY, BUT I CAN'T REVEAL MY IDENTITY JUST YET
YOU WERE MY ONLY FRIEND BACK THEN. THANK YOU, MIO
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I HAVE FOND FEELINGS FOR.
WHAT A COOL BEAUTY! HOW NICE!
SHE MUST BE SOME RICH HEIR-ESS!
WOW, LOOK AT HER!
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE BAWLING AFTER WE TEASE HER A LITTLE BIT.
I SAY SHE WON'T LAST MORE THAN A WEEK!
YES, BUT FORGET ABOUT THAT FOR NOW. SHE'S THE TALK OF THE SCHOOL AND I DON'T LIKE THAT ONE BIT!
SO HER NAME'S ALISA?

SEE YOU LATER!
HEY.
WE CAN'T TAKE HER LIGHTLY.
OH, KEIICHI.
HEY! MASAKO!
OH WELL.
JEEZ, I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE ROPED IN OUR SCHOOL'S MOST HANDSOME GUY.
YOU SURE HAVE IT ROUGH.
WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT.
CHANGE INTO YOUR P.E. CLOTHES ALREADY AND HEAD TO THE FIELD!
COACH!
TAKE A LOOK.
NAH, YOU HAVE IT ROUGHER.
THAT 12.5 SECOND RECORD ON THE 100-METER DASH ISN'T GONNA STAND FOREVER!

GOODNESS, I ASKED YOU NOT TO COME TO SCHOOL.
DO FORGIVE US. PLEASE STRIKE A POSE!
SAY, MISS SHIGARAKI.
SO THAT'S SEIRYOU HIGH SCHOOL'S FAMOUS FEMALE TRIO?
YEP.
MASAKO KAWASAKI IS A SUPER TRACK ATHLETE WHO RUNS THE 100-METER DASH.
KEIKO AOKI IS AT THE TOP OF THE CLASS.
REPORTERS MOB HER EVERY DAY, TOO.
SHE'LL BE THE MAIN CHARACTER IN A HIGHLY ACCLAIMED STAGE PLAY.
SHE'S THE DARLING OF THE DRAMA CLUB
AND BENIKO SHIGA-RAKI?


I'LL START WITH YOU, KEIKO!
I SEE. THEY'RE ALL FAMOUS FOR DIFFERENT THINGS.


THAT TRANSFER STUDENT?
WHAT? SHE'S CHALLENGING ME?


INTERESTING! I'LL TAKE HER ON!
SFX. OR HORORORORO
SHE NEEDS TO KNOW HER PLACE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
SHE SAID YOU'D LOSE TO HER ON THE NEXT TEST.

YEAH! SHE'S CHALLENGING THE SMARTEST GIRL IN SCHOOL!
SOUNDS LIKE FUN!
HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THE TRANSFER STUDENT?
NAH, HIDAKA'S ACTUALLY PRETTY SMART.
I THINK AOKI'S GONNA WIN.
OKAY! I'M BETTING MY LUNCH ON AOKI!
HEY, HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT HIDAKA CHALLENGING AOKI FOR HER CLASS RANK?
YEAH, I DID.
ALISA?
THEN I'M BETTING ON HIDAKA!
HEHEH
I'M BETTING ON HIDAKA, TOO!
HAVE YOU HEARD ?
EVERYONE'S OBSESSED ABOUT YOUR CHALLENGE WITH KEIKO.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT LET'S GO HOME TOGETHER.
YES! SHE'S NOT A GENIUS,
BUT THE TYPE THAT WORKS REALLY HARD
ARE KEIKO'S GRADES THAT AMAZING?

SHE PLACED QUITE HIGH ON THE NATIONAL EXAM.
OH? LOOKS LIKE MIO LIKES THAT GUY.
WELL, HERE GOES.
LOOKS LIKE HE'S SHY TOO, HUH
SHE'S STILL AS SHY AS EVER
WH-
YES?
MIO?

T/N NOTE: YURI FUCK YEAH

MIO!
OKITA!
WHAT?!
SFX LEAP!
DO YOU LIKE MIO THAT MUCH?
YOU SHOULD'VE MADE YOURSELF CLEAR.
MY, MY.
YEEK
MY KISS WAS JUST A BIT OF A PRANK.
YOU TOO, MIO.
!
YOUR FUTURE TOGETHER.
PLEASE THINK ABOUT
STOP BEING SO SHY ABOUT EVERYTHING!
ARE YOU GOING TO LET HAPPINESS SLIP THROUGH YOUR GRASP?

SO LONG!
SHE PUT A CANDY WRAPPER BETWEEN US
NOPE, YOU SEE...
SHE TOOK YOUR FIRST KISS.
SO THAT MEANS...
I STILL...
HEHE
BE HAPPY, MIO

YOU MAY BE PRETTY, RICH, AND POPULAR, BUT THAT DOESN'T MATTER
I'LL SHOW EVERYONE HOW EMPTY YOUR HEAD IS!
.....
AND THEN...
EXAM IN PROGRESS! QUIET PLEASE!
SFX. BUSTLE BUSTLE...
YOU MAY BEGIN!
I WON'T LOSE TO THE LIKES OF HER!
I'LL WIN!

LOOK HOW STUNNED SHE IS
SFX GLANCE!
TO ALISA'S SURPRISE, THE OLD COUPLE'S TEACHING HAD BEEN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE.
I KNOW... EVERYTHING!
SO YOU'VE FINALLY REALIZED...
THEY TAUGHT ME THE MOST USEFUL THINGS
THEY TAUGHT ME THE FUNDAMENTALS OF PROBLEM SOLVING
HOW FUTILE IT WAS TO CHALLENGE ME!
サラサラサラ
SFX. SCRIBBLE SCRIBBLE

1. ALISA HIDAKA
2. KEIKO AOKI
LOOK! HIDAKA IS NUMBER ONE!
THE SCHOOL RANKINGS ARE OUT!
THEY'RE ANNOUNC-ING THE RESULTS!
AOKI FELL FROM HER SPOT AT THE TOP!
I LOST ...
EVEN THOUGH I DID MY VERY BEST...
EVERY-THING THAT I WORKED FOR ..
WAS FOR NAUGHT. .

I SHOULD GO...
TO KEIICHI.
SFX: HAHAHAHAHAHA!
2-A
THAT'S HIS VOICE!
TOO BAD, KEIICHI.
YOUR GIRLFRIEND LOST TO HIDAKA.
MY GIRL-FRIEND? WHAT A JOKE.
SHE ONLY MADE MY LIST OF GIRLFRIENDS BECAUSE OF HER GRADES.
BUT NOW SHE'S WORTHLESS.
HOW MEAN!
THAT'S JUST CRIMI-NAL!
SFX: STEP STEP STEP
LIKE THAT'D EVER HAPPEN.
YEAH, I SHOULD GO AFTER HER TOO...
I'LL TRY GOING AFTER ALISA HIDAKA.
SHE'D BE THE PERFECT GIRLFRIEND FOR ME.
THIS TIME,

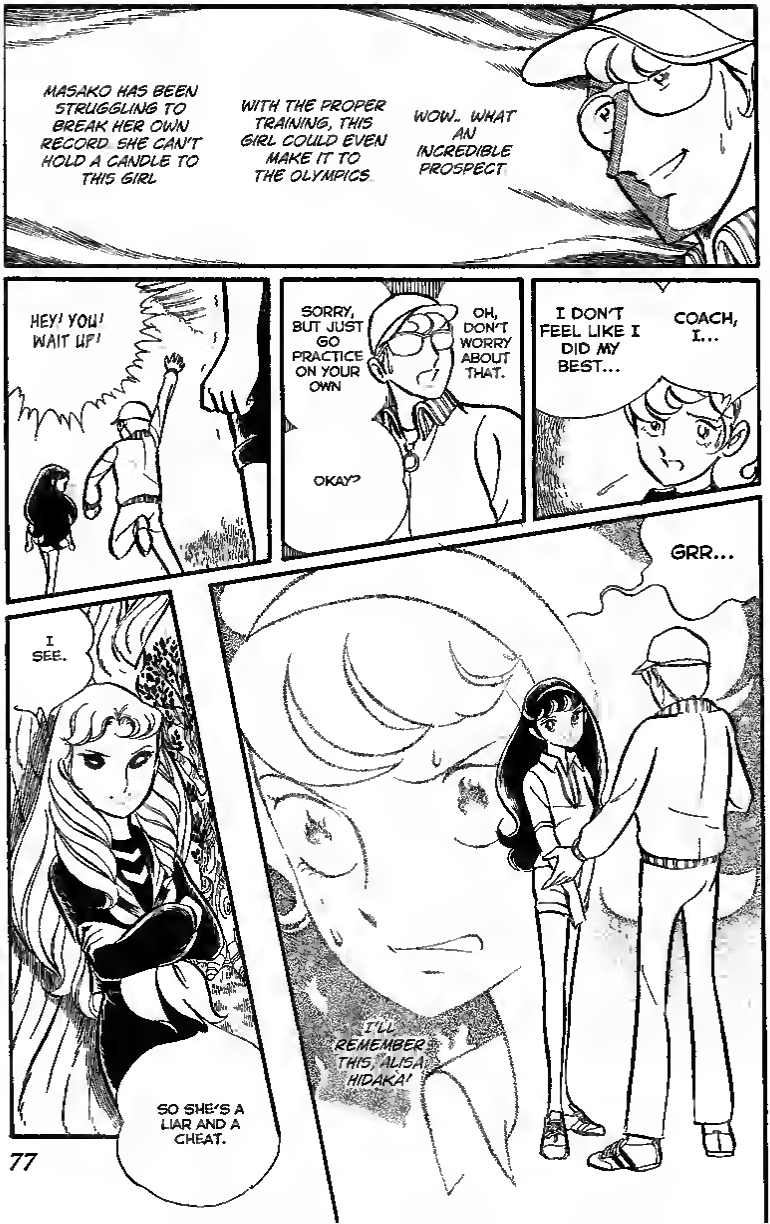
HEY, WAS SOMEONE HERE?
NO IDEA.
NO!
NO!
NO!
あああああ
NOOOO!
SFX: BUMP!
HEY! THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR STANDING AROUND!
I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG WITH KEIKO?

?
LOOK AT THIS!
YEAH, I'M FEELING GOOD TODAY. LET'S TRY TO BEAT MY OLD RECORD
C-COACH!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE STOPWATCH?
!?
THIS CAN'T BE!
A...
ALISA HIDAKA!
WHO RAN THIS TIME?!
YAMADA? ICHIKAWA? KURAMOCHI?!
NOBODY ON THE TRACK TEAM CAN RUN THIS FAST!
IT WAS HER...

HEHEHE, LOOK WHO'S HERE.
HIDAKA.
NICE TIME YOU GOT THERE.
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THIS IS THE SAME AS MASAKO'S BEST TIME!
SFX. SMIRK!
HOW ABOUT IT? WANT TO RACE WITH ME?
THAT STOPWATCH MUST'VE BEEN BROKEN
I'LL DO IT.
I CAN'T EXPLAIN IT ANY OTHER WAY.
COACH, PLEASE TIME US!
AND MAKE IT ACCURATE!
UH, OKAY
ON YOUR MARK.

SHE'S AN EYESORE I HAVE TO TAKE HER OUT NOW
GET SET!
BANG!
NOW!
SHE'S SO FAST!
WHA-
LIKE A GUST OF WIND!

IMPOSSIBLE! HOW CAN I LOSE?!
UGH ...
YOU MUST BE AMAZED AT HOW FAST I'VE GOTTEN SINCE I WENT UNDER-GROUND, MASAKO
RUNNING IN A STRAIGHT LINE ON FLAT GROUND IS A PIECE OF CAKE!
I JUMPED FROM ROCK TO ROCK IN THE DARKNESS.
HER FORM IS INADEQUATE AND HER SPRINTING IS TERRIBLE.
TWELVE POINT... THREE SEC-ONDS.
SHE'S NOT EVEN WEARING ANY SPIKES AND YET SHE BEAT MASAKO BY TWO TENTHS OF A SECOND?!


MASAKO HAS BEEN STRUGGLING TO BREAK HER OWN RECORD. SHE CAN'T HOLD A CANDLE TO THIS GIRL
WITH THE PROPER TRAINING, THIS GIRL COULD EVEN MAKE IT TO THE OLYMPICS.
WOW.. WHAT AN INCREDIBLE PROSPECT.
HEY! YOU! WAIT UP!
SORRY, BUT JUST GO PRACTICE ON YOUR OWN
OKAY?
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE I DID MY BEST...
COACH, I...
GRR...
I'LL REMEMBER THIS, ALISA HIDAKA!
I SEE.
SO SHE'S A LIAR AND A CHEAT.

IF THIS CONTINUES, OUR INFLUENCE IS GOING TO DIMINISH.
WHAT, SHE LOST?!
SO THAT'S WHY SHE WAS CRYING JUST NOW?
INDEED. SHE TOOK THE NUMBER-ONE SPOT FROM KEIKO.
PLUS SHE CAUGHT THE EYE OF HER NOW EX-BOYFRIEND, KEI'ICHI
YEAH! SHE'S JUST UNBELIEVABLE!
THIS TIME, I'LL HAVE HER TASTE A BIT OF PAIN.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
AGET BACK
THAT'S...
MIO?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S NOTHING ..

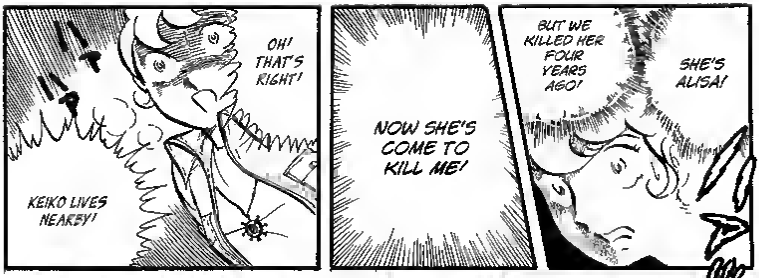
LOVE LETTERS? THERE WEREN'T THIS MANY FOUR YEARS AGO.
HMPH.
OH DEAR.
A CRIMSON ENVELOPE?
NOT VERY SUBTLE, THIS LETTER OF CHALLENGE.
ピリ!
HEHEHE. MY SECOND VICTIM.
SHE'S DIVING IN HEAD FIRST.
OH!
MASAKO KAWASAKI! FOR TONIGHT?

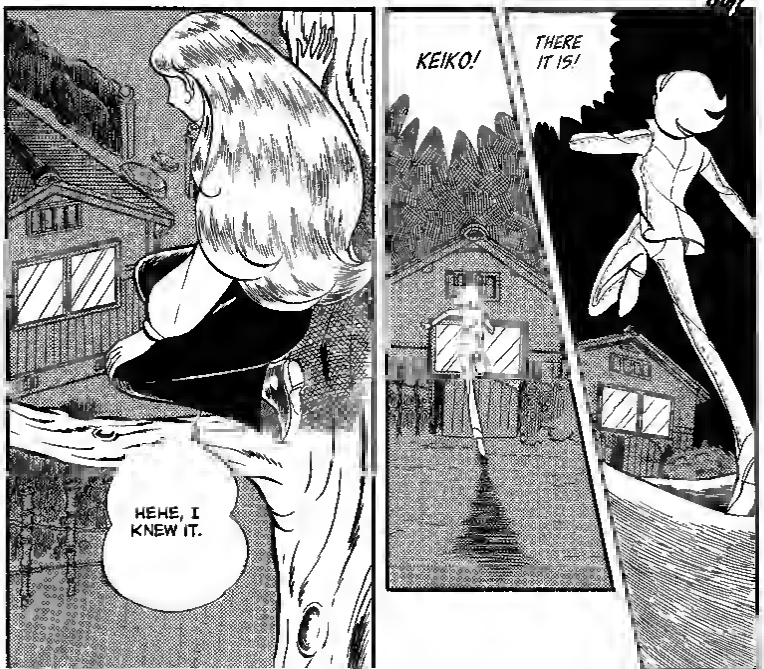
GOT IT?
EVERYONE HIDE FOR NOW.
WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL, JUMP OUT AND SURROUND HER.
BAKA
LEAVE IT TO US. SHE WON'T EVEN BE ABLE TO MAKE A SOUND.
I'LL JUST LEAVE A LITTLE SCRATCH ON HER CHEEK WITH THIS GUY.
SHE WON'T SHOW HER FACE AT SCHOOL TOMORROW.
HEHEHE
THAT'S THE SPIRIT. I'LL LEAVE IT UP TO YOU GUYS.
ALISA HIDAKA.
IT'S YOUR OWN DAMN FAULT FOR BUTTING IN.
SHE'S LATE...

AH!
AHHH!!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ACK!
NOOO!
HEY! HEY GUYS!
WHERE'D YOU GO?! ANSWER ME!
I SAW RIGHT THROUGH YOUR LITTLE TRAP.
EVERYONE'S BEEN KNOCKED OUT.
WHY YOU...
THEY CAN'T ANSWER RIGHT NOW, MASAKO.

CALM DOWN, MASAKO. LET'S HAVE A CHAT. AREN'T WE FRIENDS?
HMPH!
I DON'T REMEMBER EVER BEING YOUR FRIEND!
SFX. SHOCK!
ギクッ!
WHO... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
ARMY
YOU'RE QUITE FORGETFUL, MASAKO. WE GOT ALONG SO WELL FOUR YEARS AGO.
TAKE THIS!
I'M A GHOST
FOUR YEARS AGO, I WAS PUSHED OFF A CLIFF AND TRAPPED DEEP UNDERGROUND
IN THE MEANTIME, MY PAPA AND MAMA WERE MURDERED.
YOU REMEMBER THIS MASK, DON'T YOU?!
YOU THREE TRAMPLED ALL OVER MY FAMILY'S HAPPINESS!
I AM A GHOST, COME BACK FROM HELL TO EXACT REVENGE ON ALL OF YOU.

EEEK! YOU'RE ALISA!
LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE REMEMBERED.
NOW, HOW SHOULD I MAKE YOU REPENT?
SHOULD I TOSS YOU INTO THE CAVERN THAT TURNED MY HAIR SILVER?
NO!!
RUNNING AWAY? I HAVE A GOOD IDEA WHERE YOU'RE GOING.


SHE'S ALISA!
BUT WE KILLED HER FOUR YEARS AGO!
NOW SHE'S COME TO KILL ME!
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
KEIKO LIVES NEARBY!


THERE IT IS!
KEIKO!
HEHE, I KNEW IT.

ガラリ
OH, IT'S OPEN.
ゴッゴッ!
KEIKO! OPEN UP! KEIKO!
IT'S ME, MASAKO!
KEIKO...
AHHHHHHHH!!!!!

HAHA...
HAHA-HAHA...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
SO SHE'S BEEN DRIVEN MAD BY FEAR.
NO!!!
はははは
MASAKO AND KEIKO HAVE BEEN SWALLOWED BY THE DARKNESS OF THEIR HEARTS.
I HAVE NOT LIFTED A HAND, YET THE GODS HAVE PUNISHED THEM.
NOW ONLY THE SHIGARAKI FAMILY REMAINS!
MY REVENGE ON THEM IS COMPLETE
SFX: HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA...

GOOD MORNING, BENIKO. THE NEWSPAPER'S FEATURING AN ARTICLE ON YOU.
SHIGARAKI RESIDENCE
KEIKO COMMITTED SUICIDE
MASAKO WENT CRAZY. DID YOU SEE THOSE ARTICLES?
おおお…
THEY'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW ACTRESS, BENIKO SHIGARAKI!
IT'S AN ADVANCE PREVIEW FOR "THE MASKED
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT, PAPA!
IT'S GOT TO DO WITH THIS TRANSFER STUDENT, ALISA HIDAKA
I KNOW, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND ALL THIS.
IT VEXES ME TO NO END.
HIDAKA?
THOSE TWO WERE THE ONLY ONES
I DID, BUT THAT'S ALL THE BETTER FOR US.
WHO KNEW WHAT HAPPENED FOUR YEARS AGO.

HIDAKA WAS HER MAIDEN NAME.
WHEN I SENT ALISA'S MOTHER TO THE MENTAL HOSPITAL...
DON'T TELL ME THAT TRANSFER STUDENT IS...
BENIKO! DID YOU JUST SAY HIDAKA?
YES.
SHE LOOKS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, BUT I CAN THINK OF NO OTHER EXPLANATION!
ALISA HONJOU!!
BUT WE KILLED HER FOUR YEARS AGO!
PAPA! PUT ALISA UNDER SURVEILLANCE!
I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER, TOO!
IF WE DON'T ACT CAREFULLY, OUR EVIL DEEDS WILL BE MADE PUBLIC!
SHE KNOWS OUR WEAKNESS AND IS CREEPING UP ON US!
AOKI'S DAUGHTER KILLED HERSELF. KAWASAKI'S DAUGHTER WENT CRAZY. .
IF IT'S REVENGE ..
THAT MEANS WE'RE NEXT!

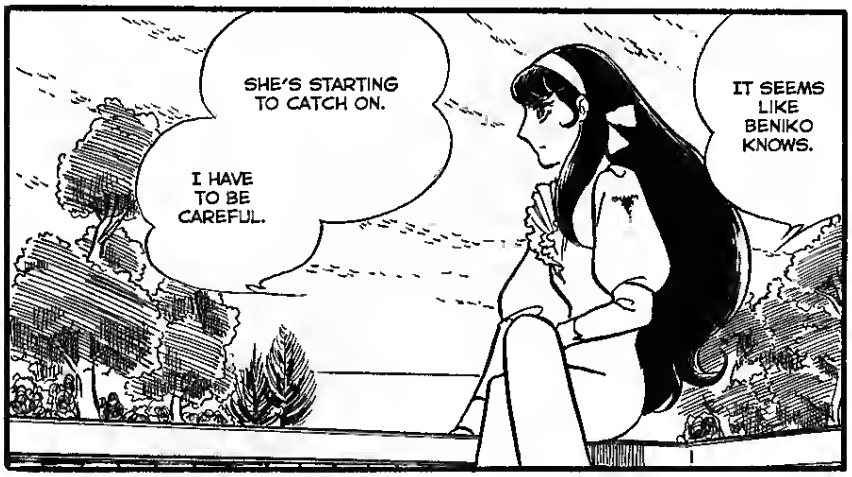
JUST HOW DID SHE GET OUT OF THAT CAVERN, I WONDER?
THE ARTICLE IN THIS MORNING'S PAPER...
ガガガガ
KEIKO WAS ALWAYS NUMBER ONE UNTIL SHE LOST TO ALISA...
MASAKO TOO... HAVING HER RECORD BROKEN WAS QUITE THE SHOCK.
IF ALISA'S COMING FOR ME NEXT, THEN...
SHE'S AIMING FOR MY DEBUT ON THE STAGE!
SHINBUKI
"THE MASKED GIRL"!
THIS IS IT!

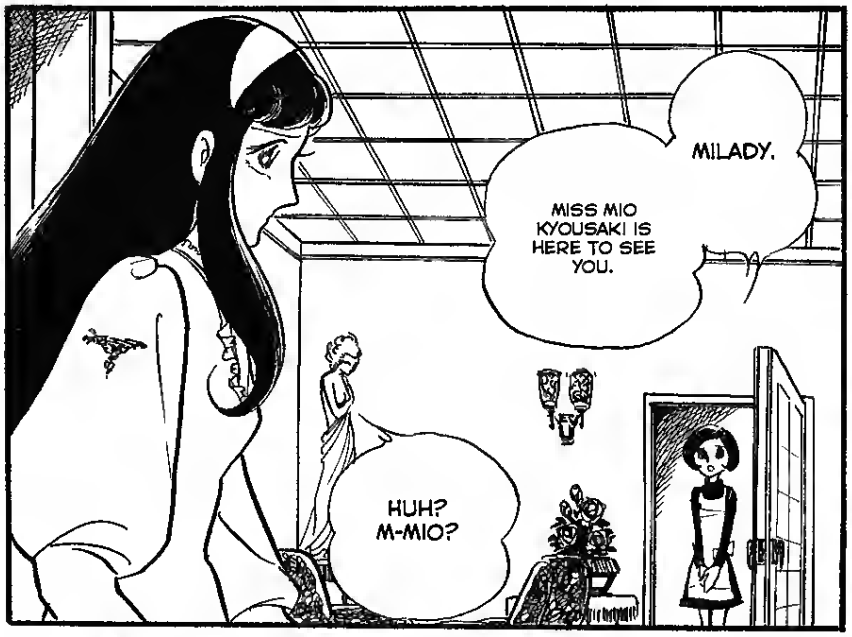
SFX VANISH
SFX SWERK
SFX GASP
UGH
SOME DAYS LATER

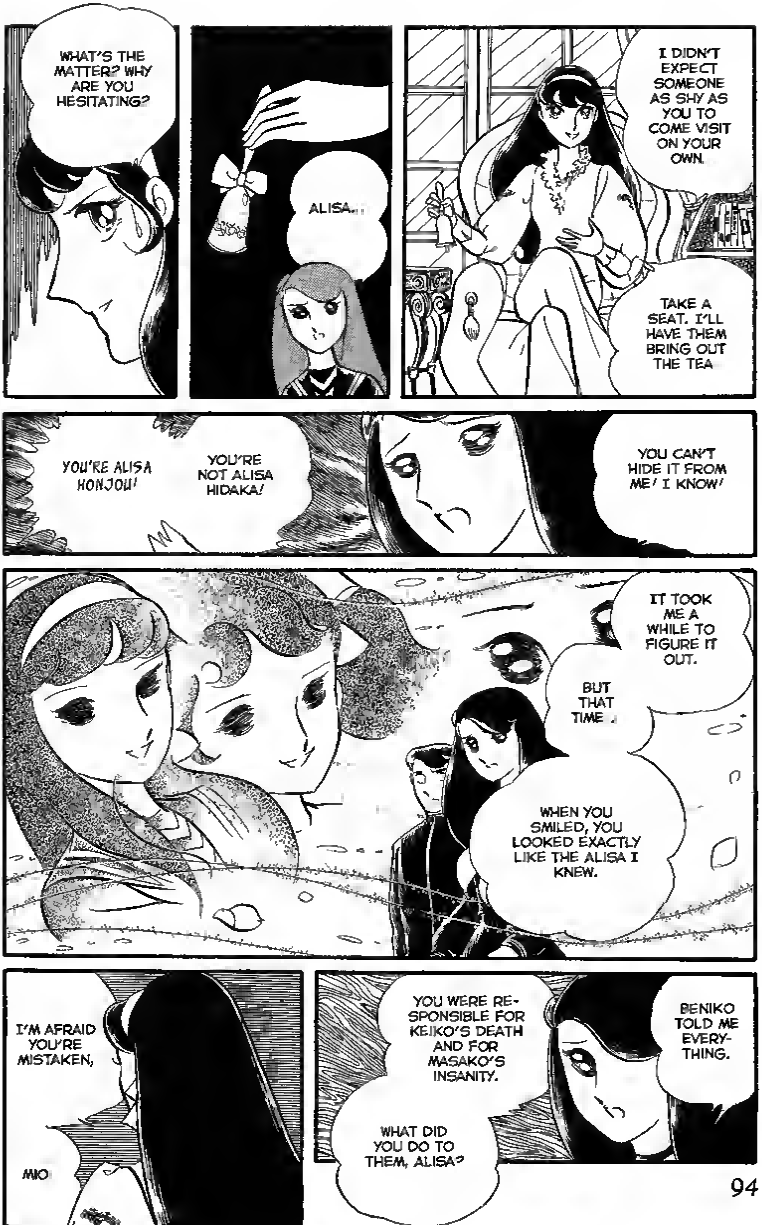
SHE KNOWS WE'RE ON TO HER!
YOU GUYS! GO LOOK OVER THERE!
RIGHT!
CURSES! WE'VE LOST HER!
DAMMIT! WHERE DID SHE GO?!
IF PRESIDENT SHIGARAKI HEARS ABOUT THIS, HEADS WILL ROLL!
野沢精神
SIGN: NOZAWA MENTAL HOSPITAL
DO YOU HAVE IT?
DIRECTOR!
IT'S WHAT YOU ASKED FOR.
Y-YES.
HMPH! THE CLUMSY FOOLS

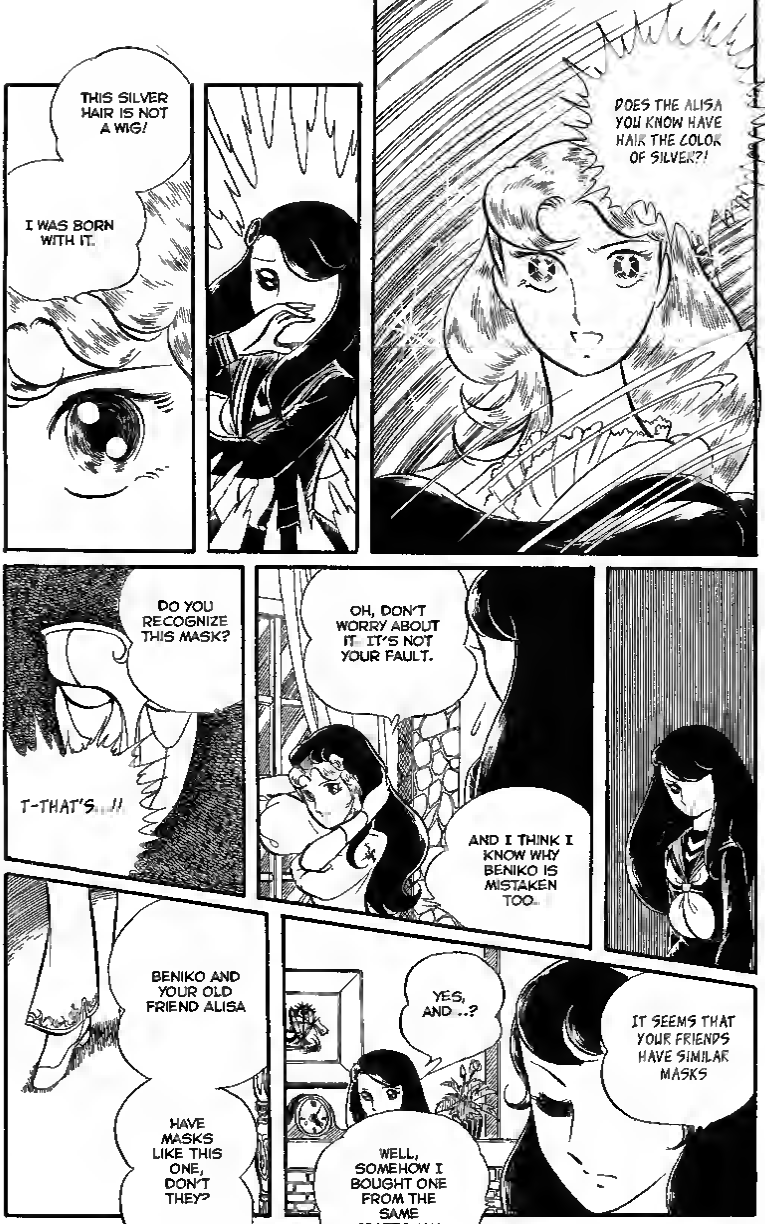
THANK YOU. HERE'S THE PAYMENT.
I BOUGHT THIS FROM A FRIEND AT THE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL... SECRETLY, VERY SECRETLY.
SOME ALCOHOL.
AND HERE'S...
USE IT WITH CARE.
FEEL FREE TO CALL AGAIN!
HMPH. THERE WON'T BE A SECOND TIME.
THAT DOCTOR IS QUITE THE DRUNKARD.
HE'S NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD!
IN ANY CASE, ONWARD!

NEXT IS...
MY FINAL OPPONENT.
BENIKO SHIGARAKI!


IT SEEMS LIKE BENIKO KNOWS.
SHE'S STARTING TO CATCH ON.
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.


MILADY.
MISS MIO KYOUSAKI IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
HUH? M-MIO?


WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY ARE YOU HESITATING?
ALISA...
I DIDN'T EXPECT SOMEONE AS SHY AS YOU TO COME VISIT ON YOUR OWN.
TAKE A SEAT. I'LL HAVE THEM BRING OUT THE TEA
YOU'RE ALISA HONJOU!
YOU'RE NOT ALISA HIDAKA!
YOU CAN'T HIDE IT FROM ME! I KNOW!
IT TOOK ME A WHILE TO FIGURE IT OUT.
BUT THAT TIME
WHEN YOU SMILED, YOU LOOKED EXACTLY LIKE THE ALISA I KNEW.
I'M AFRAID YOU'RE MISTAKEN,
MIO
YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR KEIKO'S DEATH AND FOR MASAKO'S INSANITY.
WHAT DID YOU DO TO THEM, ALISA?
BENIKO TOLD ME EVERYTHING.


THIS SILVER HAIR IS NOT A WIG!
I WAS BORN WITH IT.
DOES THE ALISA YOU KNOW HAVE HAIR THE COLOR OF SILVER?!
DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS MASK?
T-THAT'S...!!
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
AND I THINK I KNOW WHY BENIKO IS MISTAKEN TOO...
BENIKO AND YOUR OLD FRIEND ALISA
HAVE MASKS LIKE THIS ONE, DON'T THEY?
YES, AND ..?
WELL, SOMEHOW I BOUGHT ONE FROM THE SAME CRAFTSMAN.
IT SEEMS THAT YOUR FRIENDS HAVE SIMILAR MASKS

PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH THINGS!
IS GETTING SO MUCH PUBLICITY.
"THE MASKED GIRL,"
THAT'S WHY BENIKO'S DEBUT PLAY,
USING SUCH A MASK ON STAGE WOULD CAUSE QUITE A STIR.
THAT CRAFTSMAN DIED SUDDENLY LAST YEAR. NOW THESE MASKS ARE WORTH A BUNDLE
BETWEEN US AND THE MISSING ALISA.
THIS MASK IS A SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP
YOU'RE KIDDING ME! BENIKO BETRAYED ME AND TRAMPLED ALL OVER IT.
SO THAT MASK SYMBOLIZES OUR FRIENDSHIP?
FORGIVE ME, MIO. I DIDN'T WANT TO DRAG YOU INTO ALL OF THIS.
AND TONIGHT SHE'S USING IT
TO GILD HER DEBUT INTO THE WORLD OF SHOW BUSINESS.

YOU WON'T BE USING THAT MASK TONIGHT!
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN, BENIKO!
WAS IT MY IMAGINA-TION?
WHO'S THERE?!
SOME-ONE'S AT THE WINDOW!
I HEARD IT ALL.
SILLY GIRL.
I'D BETTER HURRY, THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME.
SHE'S PLANNING TO STEAL IT BEFORE TONIGHT'S SHOW.
YOU WON'T LET HER USE THE MASK, EH?

THE PRODUCTION IS A BIG SUCCESS!
WOW! LOOK AT THE CROWD!
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THE MASK
THERE IT IS!
BENIKO'S MASK. .
WHERE IS IT?

WHOA! A BLACK-OUT!
LET'S CHECK THE CIRCUIT BREAKER!
TURN ON THE BACKUP GENERATOR!
THAT'S THE THEATER'S CIRCUIT PANEL.
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ARGH!
...
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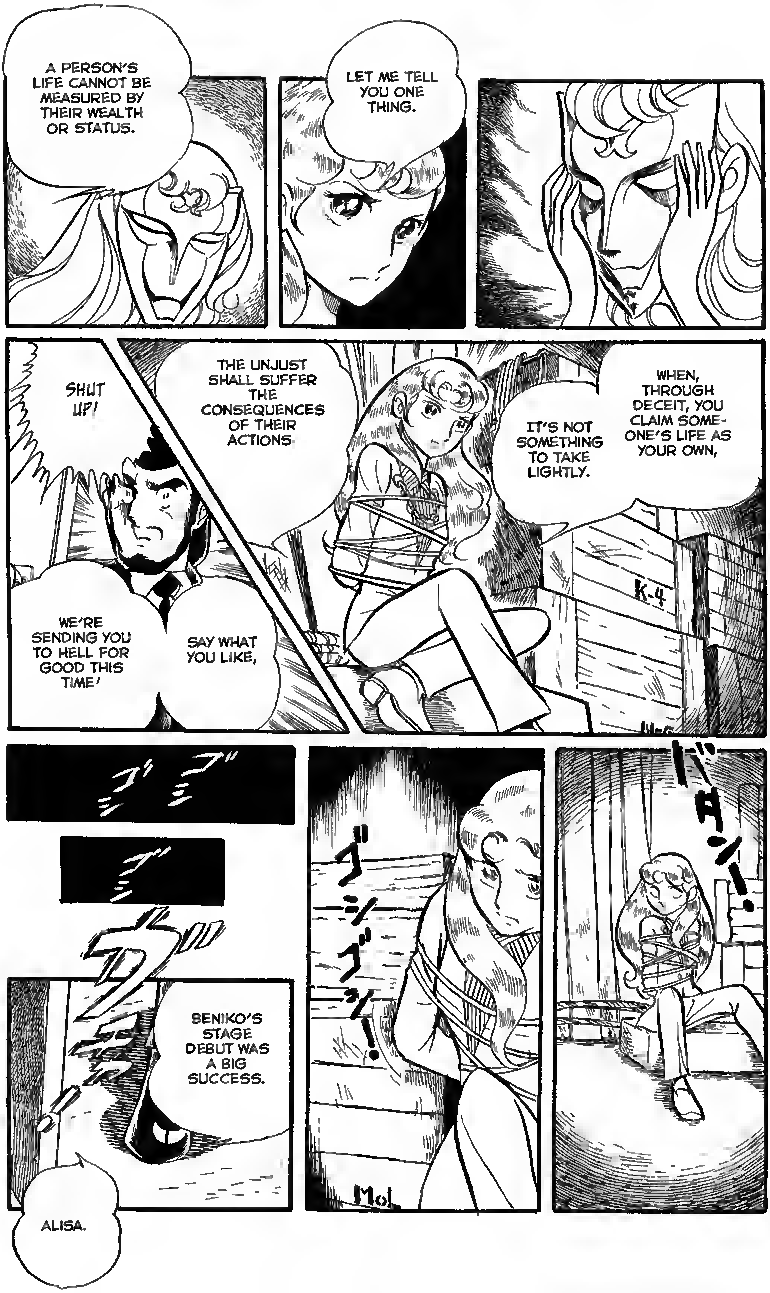
OH NO!
NOW GET INTO THAT STORAGE CLOSET!

I EXPECTED YOU TO BE SKULKING ABOUT,
BUT YOU WENT AND CAUSED A BLACKOUT.
QUITE THE BOLD MOVE.
GIT!
LONG TIME NO SEE, ALISA.
BENIKO SHIGARAKI!
AND BENIKO'S FATHER!
EVEN SO!
WE KNEW YOU WOULD COME, BUT YOU MANAGED TO COME HERE UNDETECTED.
HO-HOHOHOHO! YOU CUT A FINE FIGURE, ALISA.
YOU'VE BEEN PLOTTING YOUR REVENGE SINCE YOU GOT OUT OF THAT CAVERN
I ADMIRE YOUR TENACITY.
YOU DROVE KEIKO TO SUICIDE, AND MASAKO TO INSANITY.
MOST IMPRESSIVE, ALISA.

INDEED, IT WAS A TERRIBLY EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING TOOL.
YOU WERE CORRECT IN AIMING FOR THIS MASK.
MY DEBUT WITH THIS MASK WILL BE THE TALK OF THE WORLD!
YOU STOLE THE NUMBER-ONE SPOT FROM KEIKO
AND BROKE MASAKO'S 100-METER DASH RECORD.
I'LL BE GUARANTEEING MY FUTURE WITH THE MASK YOU PLANNED TO STEAL!
FRUS-TRATING, ISN'T IT?
AND DROVE THEM INTO DESPAIR.
YOU DESPOILED THEIR PROUDEST ACHIEVEMENTS
SFX: GLANCE!
GO ON, BENIKO THE CURTAIN IS RISING.
ALISA HAS CONFESSED.
STEAL WHAT?
.. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.
DON'T PLAY DUMB! MY SECURITY MAN HEARD IT LOUD AND CLEAR!


A PERSON'S LIFE CANNOT BE MEASURED BY THEIR WEALTH OR STATUS.
LET ME TELL YOU ONE THING.
WHEN, THROUGH DECEIT, YOU CLAIM SOMEONE'S LIFE AS YOUR OWN,
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO TAKE LIGHTLY.
THE UNJUST SHALL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS.
SHUT UP!
SAY WHAT YOU LIKE,
WE'RE SENDING YOU TO HELL FOR GOOD THIS TIME!
K-4
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BENIKO'S STAGE DEBUT WAS A BIG SUCCESS.
ALISA.
ゴシゴシ!
ドカン!

LISTEN!
THEY'RE APPLAUDING FOR MY DAUGHTER! SHOUTING THEIR CONGRATULATIONS!
THAT MEANS YOU'VE FAILED TO GET YOUR REVENGE! HAHAHA!
I BEG TO DIFFER.
MY REVENGE IS NEARLY COMPLETE.
THAT IS THE SOUND OF BENIKO'S FUNERAL.
WHAT?!

THERE IS A UNIQUE PATHOGEN FROM THE TROPICS.
IT IS ABSORBED THROUGH THE SKIN AND EATS INTO THE BODY, ROTTING AWAY THE FLESH.
STARTING FROM THE INFECTION SITE, IT SPREADS TO THE ENTIRE BODY.
S-SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
SUPPOSE I SMEARED THE INSIDE OF THE MASK WITH IT?
BENIKO PUT ON THE MASK, THINKING SHE HAD WON.
LITTLE DID SHE KNOW IT WAS ACTUALLY THE MOMENT OF MY VICTORY
HOWEVER, THE DISEASE HAS AN INCUBATION PERIOD.
AHH...
THE DECAY MIGHT SET IN RIGHT AWAY.. OR IT COULD TAKE TEN YEARS, MAYBE TWENTY YEARS.

TASTE MY PAIN! YOU KILLED MY PARENTS, IMPRISONED ME, AND TURNED MY HAIR SILVER!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
ALISA... HOW DARE YOU...
BENIKO!
MY DREAMS!
MY AMBI-TIONS!
A RANDOM PIMPLE WILL CAUSE YOU TO GO MAD WITH FEAR.
YOU WON'T KNOW WHEN THE DISEASE WILL STRIKE.
ACK!
NOW YOU KNOW THE AGONY OF LOSING YOUR HAPPINESS!

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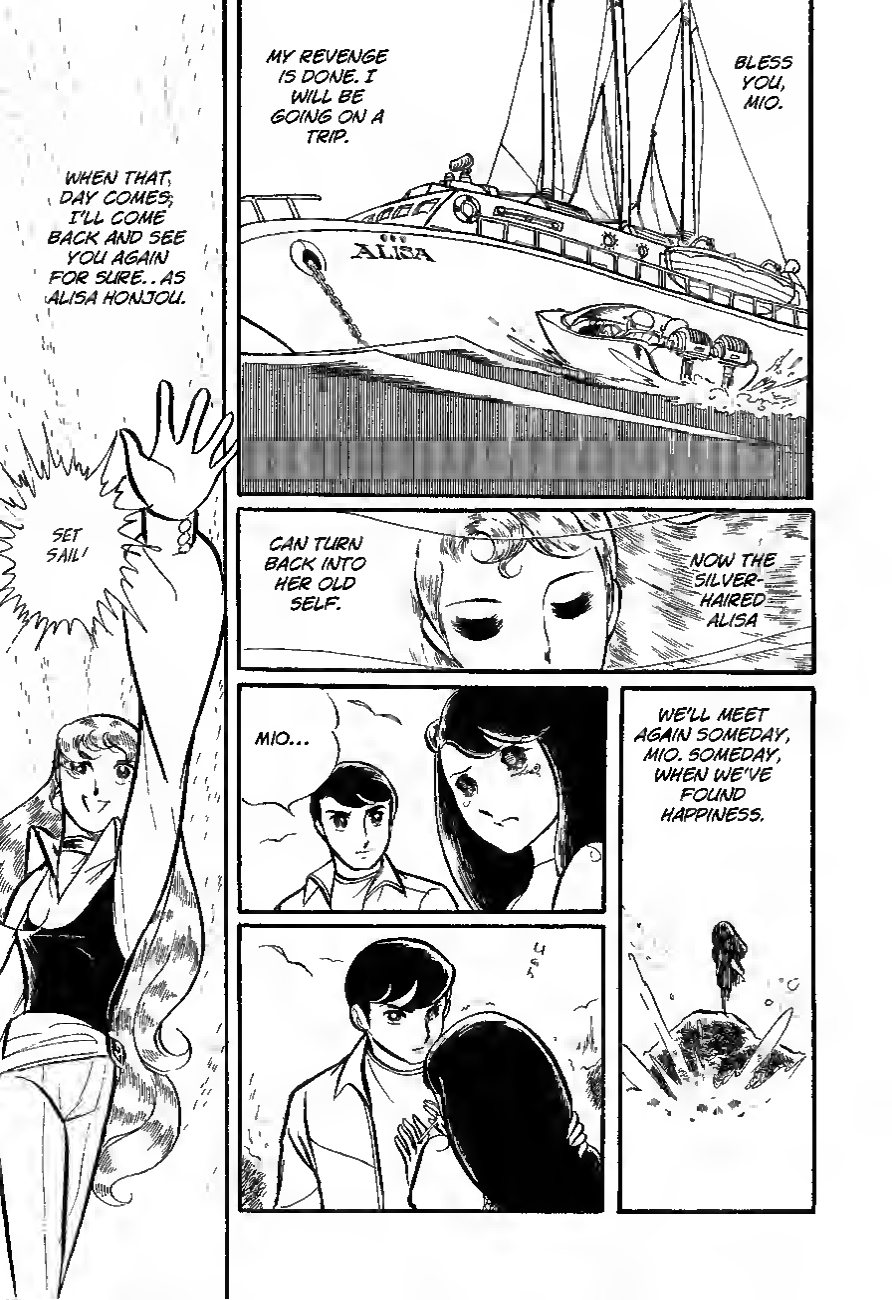
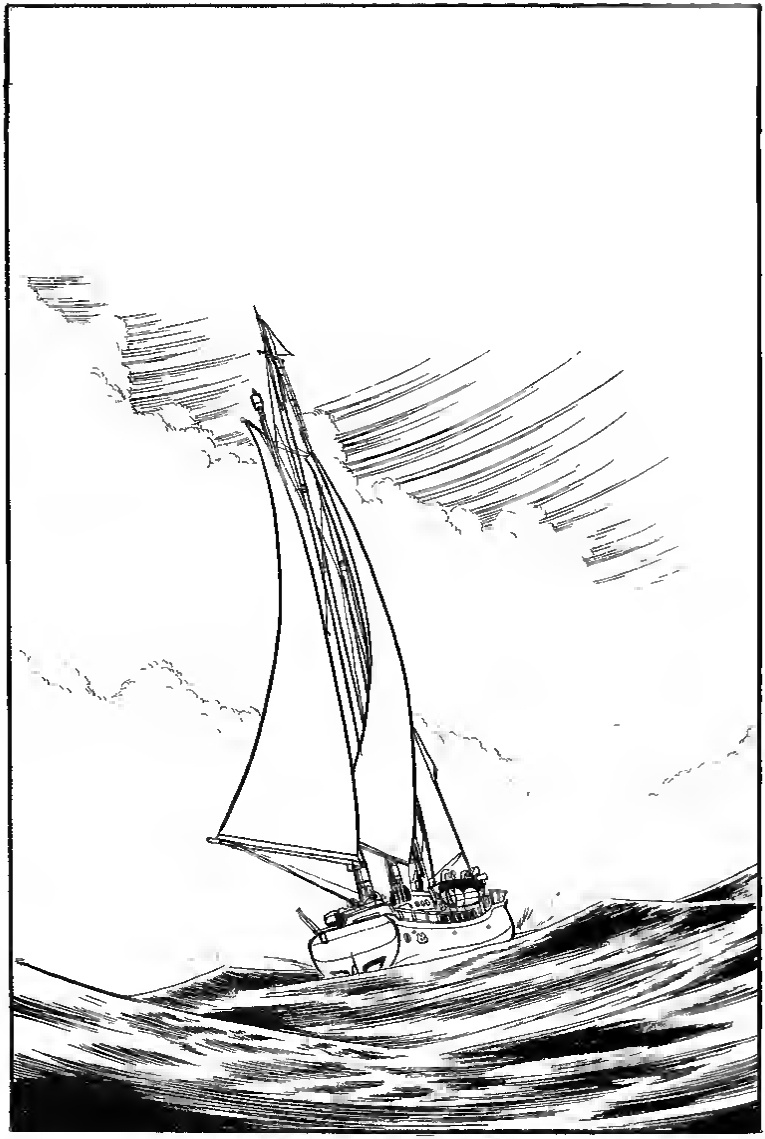
TAKE THIS!
GOOD-BYE, BENIKO.
NO... NO....
ゴオオ
IT'S ON FIRE!
BENIKO! HURRY! WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE!

BENIKO!
BENIKO!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE AN UGLY WOMAN
GOODBYE, PAPA
I'LL DIE AS I AM NOW
HERE UPON THIS STAGE!
*SFX: ROAR

A PERSON'S LIFE CANNOT BE MEASURED BY WEALTH OR STATUS. WHEN, THROUGH DECEIT, YOU CLAIM SOMEONE'S LIFE AS YOUR OWN,
IT'S NOT SOMETHING TO TAKE LIGHTLY.
OH. .
THE UNJUST SHALL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR ACTIONS
BENIKO!
OH, BENIKO...
IT'S OVER.

THE NEXT MORNING...
MIO!
ALISA!
ALISA!!
MIO...
YOU REALLY ARE ALISA, AREN'T YOU!
WH- WHY ARE YOU LEAVING WITHOUT TELLING ME ANYTHING, ALISA?!


MY REVENGE IS DONE. I WILL BE GOING ON A TRIP.
BLESS YOU, MIO.
ALISA
WHEN THAT DAY COMES, I'LL COME BACK AND SEE YOU AGAIN FOR SURE.. AS ALISA HONJOU.
SET SAIL!
CAN TURN BACK INTO HER OLD SELF.
NOW THE SILVER-HAIRED ALISA
MIO...
WE'LL MEET AGAIN SOMEDAY, MIO. SOMEDAY, WHEN WE'VE FOUND HAPPINESS.



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LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT THAT.
I CAN'T REALLY REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT IT.
SO EMBARRASSING JUST THINKING ABOUT IT!
THIS IS A REALLY OLD WORK THAT I FEEL QUITE EMBARRASSED ABOUT - I JUST WANT TO DIG A HOLE AND JUMP INTO IT.
おおおお…
I REMEMBER TURNING IN BOTH THE MANUSCRIPT AND MY THESIS ON THE SAME DAY.
I WAS A COLLEGE STUDENT BACK THEN AND THE DEADLINE FOR THIS WORK COINCIDED WITH THAT OF MY GRADUATION THESIS.
IN ANY CASE, AFTER I TURNED IN ALISA OF THE SILVER HAIR...
I GUESS IT WAS GREAT THAT I WAS STILL A STUDENT?
WELL, YOU'VE GOT ABOUT THREE MONTHS.
THINK OF A SHORT STORY.
BUT I DIDN'T THINK I'D BE ABLE TO MAKE IT AS A PRO.
YESSIR.
I WAS GRADUATING FROM COLLEGE BUT I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT LOOKING FOR ANY JOBS. I JUST POURED MY LIFE INTO MANGA.
TWO YEARS AFTER MY DEBUT
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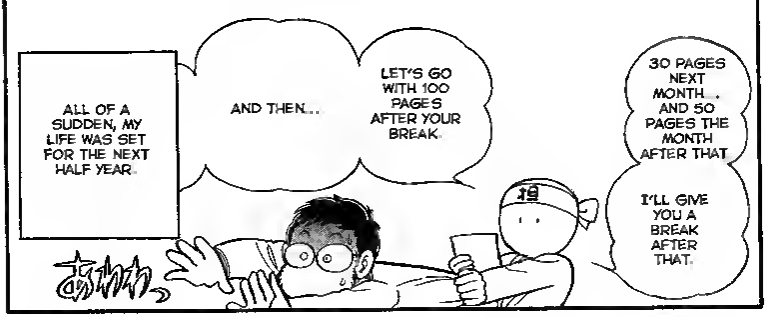
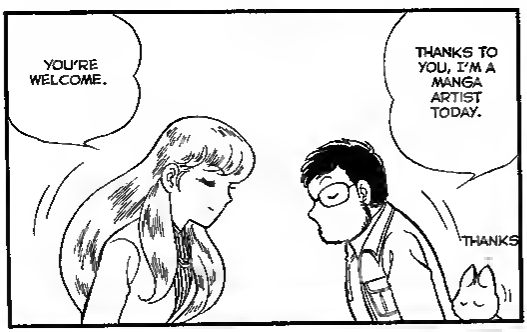
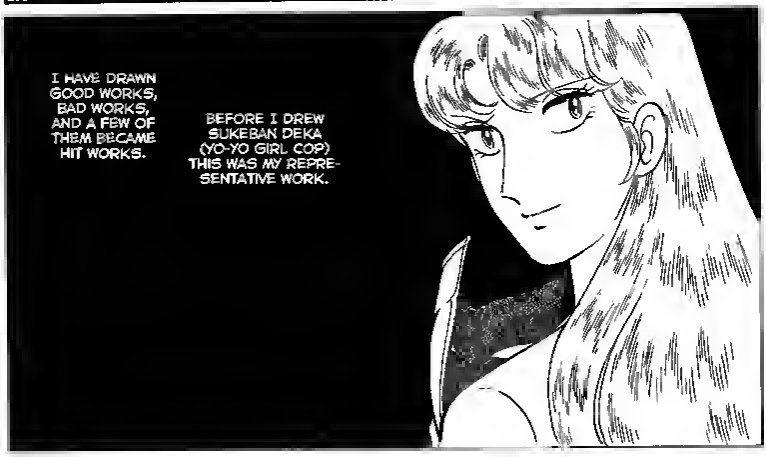

ALL OF A SUDDEN, MY LIFE WAS SET FOR THE NEXT HALF YEAR.
AND THEN...
LET'S GO WITH 100 PAGES AFTER YOUR BREAK.
30 PAGES NEXT MONTH... AND 50 PAGES THE MONTH AFTER THAT.
I'LL GIVE YOU A BREAK AFTER THAT.




I HAVE DRAWN GOOD WORKS, BAD WORKS, AND A FEW OF THEM BECAME HIT WORKS.
BEFORE I DREW SUKEBAN DEKA (YO-YO GIRL COP) THIS WAS MY REPRESENTATIVE WORK.

WHEN PEOPLE PICK UP THIS ONE-VOLUME WORK FROM A NEWBIE AUTHOR - WHAT DO THEY THINK OF ME?

BUT... IT REALLY SCARES ME SOMETIMES,